

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
September 20, 2022

Board Members Present: Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Mrs. Ogleretta White, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen (virtual), Mr. Donnie Hill and Mr. Kevin Dozier (virtual).

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chairperson Atkinson. In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (d) as amended, the local media was notified of the time, date and place of the meeting. Ms. Deciera Gause stated that the media was notified of the meeting and a copy of the agenda was also provided.

Invocation: The invocation was given by the Reverend Bakari Brown, Pastor of Red Hill Baptist Church, Britton's Neck, South Carolina. The Board thanked Reverend Brown for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed to the September 20, 2022 meeting.

Establishment of Quorum: Chairperson Atkinson verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to approve the September 20, 2022 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. White, Mr. Hill and Rev. Brown).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2022. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill and Mrs. White).

Marion County School District 2022 Summer Graduates Celebration: Dr. Bunch presented the Summer High School Graduates. The student was recognized for determination and outstanding accomplishments.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Career and Technology Education Program Update (ACT): Mr. Stone provided updates of all programs at ACT and introduced the new programs added this school term.

Finance Report for August 2022: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the financials for the month of July. This report was presented as information. Executive session was requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan presented A3 Communications for a metal detector demonstration. He also gave an update and overview of the operation's report.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for personnel actions. She gave a brief update from the Salary Study Consultants.

Student Services: Mrs. Rush gave an update on 2022-2023 Bus Contract.

Academic Update / Report: Ms. Gordon gave an overview of iReady. Board concerns and comments were addressed during Ms. Gordon's presentation.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the recent happenings in the schools in MSCD. She briefed the Board on upcoming events, i.e., Board Tours and staff incentives.

Review and Action: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfers and releases to the Board for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; and it was approved. (Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth).

Public Participation: Rev. Tony Paige brought before the Board concerns about the salary for the cafeteria staff at Creek Bridge STEM Academy.

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have. Chairperson Atkinson discussed the Board Retreat dates. The Board unanimously agreed to October 6, 2022 for the Retreat.

Chairperson Atkinson asked for two volunteers from the Board to represent MCBOE at the 2022 Delegate Assembly; Vice Chairperson Foxworth and Mr. Hill will represent the Board; Chairperson Atkinson will serve as an alternate.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Legal briefing, Contractual Matters and Personnel. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. White and Chairperson Atkinson).

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mrs. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to come out of executive session back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mrs. White and Chairperson Atkinson).

Chairperson Atkinson stated that no action was taken in executive session.

Phase 2-HVAC: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept Phase 2 for the MIS HVAC, Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. White and the Board unanimously approved (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown and Mrs. White).

Personnel: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to submit employees with the initials D.D., A.F. and L.S. for breach of contract to the State Board of Education and ask that these persons have their certificate suspended in accordance with the law for failing to honor their contracts with Marion County School District for the 2022-2023 school year, Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mr. Hill and the Board approved 4 for (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill and Mrs. White) and 1 nay (Vice Chairperson Foxworth).

Personnel: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the recommendations for all other employees other than the ones previously indicated, Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. White and the Board unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. White and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.