

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
June 28, 2022

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:33 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. Mrs. Hopper 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 Jarvis Woodberry, Pastor of Hill Chapel Baptist Church of Dunford, South Carolina.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-Atkinson welcomed the staff to the June 28, 2022 Special Called 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 June 28, 2022 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. White, Mr. Dozier, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).

Amended Agenda: Due to the Superintendent's Evaluation omitted from the agenda, Chairperson Atkinson asked for the agenda to be amended and add this item. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. White to amend the agenda to add the Superintendent's evaluation; and the motion was approved unanimously (Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. White, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth and Mr. Hill).

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant gave a brief Human Resources update and presented personnel actions for approval. Chairperson-Atkinson asked for approval of the personnel actions. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the personnel actions as recommended by the Superintendent; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. White, Mr. Dozier, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth and Mr. Hill).

Academic Program Report (Early College Program): Ms. Melonie Gordon and Mr. Michael Stone, Principal of Mullins High School presented an update about the Early College Program at Mullins High School. This Program offers students the opportunity to earn over 75 college credit hours or a two-year Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree by the time they earn their high school diploma. Ms. Gordon and Mr. Stone briefly discussed student eligibility and the courses that are being offered to earn an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science Degrees. Dr. Bethea, Ms. Gordon and Mr. Stone addressed questions and concerns from Board Members after the presentation.

Finance Report / Update: 2nd Reading Approval 2022-2023 Fiscal Year: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented a brief discussion of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget of \$40,629,181. Mrs. Cooper addressed many of the questions and concerns from the Board during her presentation. Chairperson Atkinson stated that an executive session was needed to address other concerns.

Superintendent's Report/Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief presentation of her Superintendent Updates of the Marion County School Districts that occurred since the last meeting.

Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the Student Transfer and Release request to the Board for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the Transfer Request and Release request. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; and it was approved. (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Mrs. White, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen and Vice-Chairperson Mrs. Foxworth).

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

Student Code of Conduct: Mrs. Martina Rush addressed many questions and concerns from the Board in reference to their request for Student Code of Conduct in reference to SROs. Board members expressed serious concerns about the duties of Resource Officers at the schools. Mrs. Rush, along with Dr. Bethea gave a brief explanation of the SRO's duties and addressed other concerns in reference to Student Code of Conduct.

Board Presence and Etiquette: Rev. Brown addressed her concern in reference to the Board's dress appearance. She stated that the Board being in a leadership position, should set examples for the others to follow. We as Board Members can't ask others to dress a certain way if we are not dressing professional ourselves.

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson Atkinson reminded members of the upcoming dates and events. The teachers first day of school will be July 25 and the students will return of August 1, 2022. The Opening Convocation will be on July 26, 2022 at the Amazing Grace Park @ 8:00 a.m. She also reminded them that there will be no meeting in July and the next meeting will be August 16, 2022. Dr. Bethea acknowledged Mrs. Dianne Hopper's retirement and that this would be her last Board Meeting. Chairperson Atkinson extended an invitation to Mrs. Hopper to attend the August 16, 2022 Board meeting where we will officially recognize her retirement.

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

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

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

Vice-Chairperson Foxworth made the motion to accept the bid for Marion High School student parking lot and Easterling Primary School Bus Loop seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Dozier, Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Rev. Brown).

Rev. Brown made the motion to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation as presented, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth; and the Board voted six (6) for (Mr. Dozier, Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Rev. Brown) and one (1) abstention (Mr. Hill).

Vice-Chairperson Foxworth made the motion to accept the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget, seconded by Mrs. White; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Dozier, Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Rev. Brown).

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. White to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. White, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier). The Meeting adjourned @ 7.35 pm.