

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

June 14, 2022

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 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. 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 Brian Preveaux, Pastor of Macedonia United Methodist Church and Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church of Mullins, South Carolina. The Board thanked Reverend Preveaux for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the June 14, 2022 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the June 14, 2022 agenda; one nay: Vice Chairperson Foxworth; 6 yea: (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier and Ms. White).

Approval of Minutes for May 17, 2022: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for May 17, 2022. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections, seconded by Ms. White to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting; question was raised by Ms. White (Point of Order for the May 17, 2022 election procedure and asked for an explanation from Attorney Boykin). Attorney Boykin recalled the nominations from the May 17, 2022 meeting and explained the election process and explained his error during the voting process. Then with the approval of Chairperson Atkinson to accept the point of order, Attorney Boykin called for the vote of Chairperson by show of uplifted hands; 4 YES (Mr. Hill, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Atkinson); 2 NO (Rev. Brown, Ms. White) 1 abstention (Mr. Dozier). Chairperson Atkinson called for the vote of Vice Chairperson by show of uplifted hands; 5 YES (Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Hill); 1 NO (Rev. Brown); 1 abstention (Mr. Dozier). Rev. Brown called for a point of order in reference to a meeting held prior to the May 17, 2022 Board Meeting. She explained in detail her concerns about this meeting and why she did not receive an invitation. (See attachment). Attorney Boykin explained his intent was for a smooth transition between the outgoing Board Members and newly elected Board Members. Rev. Brown also explained her conversation with SC Election Commission and with the Marion County Voters Registration pertaining when Board Members can be sworn in after an election. Attorney Boykin offered to share copies of the general law and the local law pertaining to the election process. Rev. Brown will obtain copies of the law as well. Chairperson Atkinson called for the vote to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 Board Meeting, the vote was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes for June 7, 2022: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Meeting of June 7, 2022. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the minutes; discussion raised by Ms. White to make a correction to her name as Chairperson. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the June 7, 2022 minutes with the necessary corrections. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth and the vote was unanimous.

60 Seconds in MCSD – Mullins High School: Mr. Michael Stone highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students at Mullins High School.

Special Presentation: Ms. Chanda Mason of Childsmiles Dental, LLC provided the Board with a summary of Childsmiles Dental 2022-2023 successes, challenges and post COVID opportunities. (See attachment). She also asked for the opportunity to renew the Memorandum of Agreement for the 2022-2023 SY.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for April 2022: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the financials for the month of May. This report was presented as information. Mrs. Cooper stated that there will be a need for a Special Called MCBOE Meeting on June 28, 2022 for the second reading of the budget.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Sturkey gave a brief Operation's update as outlined in the Briefs and Updates. No executive session needed.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant gave a brief update on some personnel changes. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the recommendations to include the addendum for the changes in the personnel status (A1A). Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to accept the recommendations and changes in the personnel status (A1A); question was raised by Vice Chairperson Foxworth on the hiring process. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion, Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to accept the personnel actions, recommendations and the addendum. The vote was unanimous. Mrs. Grant followed up with a recent recruitment update. Board members presented questions, concerns and comments during this session.

Student Services Report/ Update: Mrs. Rush gave a brief update on the Code of Conduct along with a handout. Board members presented questions, concerns and comments during this presentation.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea asked Ms. Sweeney to give brief update on the Academic Summer Program. Board members presented questions, concerns and comments during this session. Dr. Bethea continued with recent happenings in MSCD and finalized her report with Departmental updates and other concerns from the Board.

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. Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; Vice Chairperson Foxworth asked to be recused; and the vote was unanimous.

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

Agenda Items for next month / Marion County Board Report/Update: Board members expressed their comments, concerns and requested an update or additional information about several items. Ms. White suggested not to wait to make a decision on the election process for Chairman and Vice Chairman after an April election to move the Board meeting to the fourth Tuesday following the election of newly elected Board members. Chairperson Atkinson will add this as an agenda item.

Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to change the meeting time for monthly Board meeting from 6:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth. Motion carried.

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson Atkinson reminded members of the upcoming events. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to forego the July 19, 2022 meeting in lieu of the June 28, 2022 meeting. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Personnel /. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth. Motion carried.

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen moved to come out of executive session back into open session. Motion carried.

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

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous. The Meeting adjourned @ 8:23 pm.