

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

June 7, 2022

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 Scott Collins, Pastor of Friendship Baptist of Centenary, South Carolina. The Board thanked Reverend Collins for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-Atkinson welcomed the staff to the June 7, 2022 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the June 7, 2022 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Mrs. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Dozier).

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Human Resources Report / Updates – Dr. Bethea presented personnel actions for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this recommendation; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Mrs. White, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson-Atkinson). Dr. Bethea stated that she had additional personnel for executive session.

Finance Report / Budget Update: 1st Reading Approval for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the proposed budget of \$39,434,237 for 1st Reading Approval. She gave a briefing in reference to expenditure and revenues as well as noted any step and salary increase and the funding sources in which the increases will come. Also, there will be an increase in employee benefits (Retirement 1% and health insurance 18%). The proposed budget is based on 174 mills. After a brief question and answer session from the Board and Finance concerning Administration, levels of Administration and the funding needed, Mrs. Cooper presented the budget for 1st Reading Approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this recommendation. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this recommendation; and the Board voted passed 4 for (Mr. Hill, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth and Chairperson-Atkinson) and 3 abstentions (Rev. Brown, Mrs. White and Mr. Dozier).

No Public Participation: There was no public participation.

Marion County Board of Education Report/Updates: Chairperson Atkinson talked about a new idea (Seed Planners) that she wanted to present to the Board. A notebook would be created for every Board member with information such as Superintendent's evaluation, Board training dates, policies and etc. Information may be added as we request additional items. Dr. Bethea reflected on her concern in reference to the Board adopting a new evaluation tool at the end of the evaluation cycle, versus her being made aware of the standards/expectations at the beginning of the term. She stated that evaluations should follow the standard protocol of being provided at the start of an evaluation cycle in order for the individual that is being evaluated to have a clear understanding of the required expectations/standards. In the State of South Carolina, certified staff (teachers and administrators) are required to be provided the evaluation instrument before an evaluation occurs.

Chairperson Atkinson suggested a 5:30 start time for regular Board meetings. The Board members were asked to think about it if this was something that they wanted to consider. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to change the Board meeting time to 5:30 pm. Mr. Hill called it to the Chair's attention that this item was not placed on the agenda to act on at this time, so it would be violating the Board Policy (BEDB). Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to withdraw the motion for time change of meetings and place this item on the agenda for the next meeting; and the vote was unanimous (Chairperson-Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Mrs. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Dozier).

Receptionist /Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education position. Dr. Bethea stated that Mrs. Grant posted the position with the job description. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth stated that Mrs. Hopper gave her a copy of her job description and she has shared it with the other Board members. Chairperson Atkinson stated that she received that information, but had some information that she wanted to share with HR in reference to the job description.

Donations: Field Trip/ Summer Activity: Dr. Bethea stated that the following trips had been presented by the deadline requesting a donation (Mullins High School Marine Corps – JROTC; Johnakin Middle School BETA Club and ACT Robotics Team 1051). Chairperson Atkinson presented a motion to approve this recommendation. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve these field trips as recommended; and the Board vote passed 5 for (Mr. Hill, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson-Atkinson) and 2 Recused themselves (Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth due to son being a member of the Johnakin BETA Club and Mrs. White due to daughter participating in the ACT Robotics Team 1051).

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson Atkinson reminded members of the upcoming events.

New Board Orientation: Make-up June 9, 2022. Chairperson Atkinson reminded the new Board members of the upcoming training.

Agenda Items for next month / Marion County Board Report/Update: Board members expressed their comments, concerns and requested an update or additional information about safety and security and the code of conduct. It was also stated that if the budget is not finalized by next week, we may need another possible called meeting June 28, 2022. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth asked if this meeting could be virtual as well.

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 Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Mr. Dozier, Mrs.

White, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Chairperson Atkinson stated that the Board's reason for going into executive session was for the following: legal briefing, contractual matters and personnel.

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

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

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. White and Mr. Hill). The Meeting adjourned @ 7:10 pm.