

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

May 17, 2022

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

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Linda Neal

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson-White. 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 Bishop Chris Edwards, Pastor of Harvest Time Church of Christ of Marion, South Carolina. The Board thanked Bishop Edwards for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-White welcomed the staff, students and parents to the May 17, 2022 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson White asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the May 17, 2022 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Vice-Chairperson-Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2022 and the Budget Workshop on April 26, 2022. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson White, Vice Chairperson – Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Rev. Brown).

60 Seconds in MCSD – Marion Intermediate School: Mr. James Washington highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students at Marion Intermediate School.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Marion County Board Members: Attorney Boykin read the oath of office and each elected Board member repeated the oath of office (Mrs. Patricia Atkinson, Rev. Cynthia Brown, Mr. Kevin Dozier and Mr. Donnie Hill)

Election of Officers: Attorney Boykin explained the election process and opened the floor for the nomination of Chairman. Mrs. Foxworth nominated Mrs. Atkinson; Mr. Hill made a motion to close the nomination for Chairman, seconded Mrs. Foxworth; the vote was 5 yes votes (Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Atkinson) and 2 no votes (Mrs. White and Rev. Brown). Chairperson Atkinson opened the floor for the nomination of Vice Chairman. Mr. Hill nominated Mrs. Foxworth. Mrs. Pridgen made a motion to close the nomination for Vice Chairman; the vote was 6 yes

votes (Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. White, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Atkinson) and 1 No vote (Rev. Brown).

Staff and Student Recognition: Dr. Kandace Bethea and Chairperson Atkinson presented certificates to several students for their outstanding accomplishments during the school year. Students and parents were dismissed after the presentation.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for April 2022: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the financials for the month of April. This report was presented as information. Dr. Bethea stated that there may be a need for a Special Called MCBOE Meeting in June for the first reading of the budget.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Sturkey gave a brief Operation's update as outlined in the Briefs and Updates. After a brief question and answer section from the Board, Mr. Sturkey requested an executive session for Contractual matters.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant asked for executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Teaching and Learning Report/ Update: Ms. Gordon presented and highlighted all camps and programs offered this summer as well as shared MAP results (see Briefs and Updates). Dr. Bethea noted that a Culinary Arts camp was discussed but was not able to manifest due to our modified calendar. Board members presented questions, concerns and comments during this presentation.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the 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 Rev. Brown to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; and the vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bethea presented the out of state / over-night travels:

- JMS Jr. Beta Club Education Day Celebration at Carowinds in Fort Mill, SC; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried.
- PMS Distinguished Gentlemen Leadership Retreat in Charleston, SC: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Mrs. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth. Motion carried.
- ACT First Robotics Team 1051 Summer Off-Season Robotics Competition in Sumter, SC; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried. Note: Mrs. White presented a letter recusing herself from voting on the Robotics trip due to her child being a part of the team.
- JMS Jr. Beta Club – Jr. Beta Club National Convention in Nashville, TN; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried. Note: Vice Chairperson Foxworth presented a letter recusing herself from voting on the Jr. Beta Club trip due to her child being a member of the club.

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. Dr. Bethea presented a form to the Board in reference to the field trip donation that was request by the Board at the April 19, 2022 MCBOE meeting and asked the Board to consider coming up with an amount not to exceed a certain amount. Chairperson Atkinson stated that the Board will discuss at a later meeting how to develop a Board Grant for academic programs. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve a one-time donation not to exceed \$3,000 to award to 3 schools (\$1,000 each) that submit an application for an educational project or field trip during the summer of 2022. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. Motion carried. Note: Vice Chairperson Foxworth and Ms. White recused themselves from voting on the one-time donation due to their children being affected by the donation.

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson Atkinson reminded members of the upcoming events. MuHS graduation and MaHS graduation will be held in their gymnasiums. The next MCBOE meeting will be June 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Ms. White reminded the Board to revisit 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 for the June Board meeting.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved to come out of executive session back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

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

Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel recommendations as discussed. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved to accept the personnel recommendations, seconded by Ms. White. The vote was 6 yes votes (Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Dozier and Mrs. Pridgen) and 1 no vote (Chairperson Atkinson).

Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the bid for the gym floor at JMS. Mr. Dozier moved to accept the bid for the JMS gym floor, seconded by Ms. White and the vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the Govs.Deal recommendation as discussed. Ms. White moved to accept the Gov.Deal recommendation, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen and the vote was unanimous.

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. White to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous. The Meeting adjourned @ 8:48 pm.