

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
March 15, 2022

Board Members Present: Chairperson- Ogleretta White, Vice-Chairperson Patricia Atkinson, Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen, Mr. Levant Davis and Mrs. Linda Neal.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:03 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. 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 Brian McKnight, Pastor of Transformation Community Church of Marion, South Carolina. The Board thanked Reverend Knight for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-White welcomed the staff, students and parents to the March 15, 2022 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson White asked for approval of the agenda. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the March 15, 2022 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, 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 February 15, 2022. Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections; and the vote was 6 for (Chairperson White, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Mrs. Neal); and 1 abstention. (Rev. Brown abstained from voting due to being absent during the February 15, 2022 meeting).

60 Seconds in MCSD and Palmetto Middle School: Mr. Franklyn McInnis assisted Mrs. Stacey Wilbanks, Principal of Creek Bridge STEM Academy as she highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students.

Staff and Student Recognition: Dr. Kandace Bethea and Chairperson White presented certificates to several students for their outstanding accomplishments during the school year. After being recognized, they were directed to do the board walk before returning to their seats. Students and parents were dismissed after the presentation.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for February 2022: Mrs. Donna Sullivan presented the financials for the month of February in Mrs. Cooper's absence. The report was presented as information.

General Obligation Bond: Mrs. Sullivan presented a Resolution for Board approval in reference to the General Obligation Bond not to exceed \$875,000 which included the increase to 10 in millage. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve this resolution as recommended. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of a not

to exceed \$875,000 General Obligation Bond, Series 2022; authorizing the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organizations to facilitate the sale of the bond under its General Obligation Debt Program; and setting the debt service millage at 10 mills to provide sufficient funds to repay the bond and; the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pridgen).

Mrs. Susan Pridgen made a request to have an additional line item (Medicaid) added to the monthly finance report.

Mrs. Sullivan informed the Board that the finance Office is requesting to have a Special Called meeting on April 26, 2022 for a finance work session at 6:00 pm. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the request. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the request and; it was approved. (Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal and Vice-Chairperson Atkinson).

Facilities/Operations Report: Dr. Mark Bunch gave a brief operation's update in Mr. Sturkey's absence. In his discussion, he talked about the survey of the property behind Bethel AME Church and the mask mandate in district facilities and on transportations are no longer in effect. Dr. Bethea also gave a brief highlight on the mask mandate that the District has followed established by the CDC. She stated that the District has always followed the guidelines of the CDC and will need a motion to follow their recommendation of a no mask requirement in schools and on buses. Dr. Bethea stated that the District will continue to recommend mask wearing. After questions and concerns from members of the Board, Dr. Bethea assured the Board that they would continue to monitor the cases. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Atkinson to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent; and the Board voted 6 for (Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White). 1-Nay Mrs. Foxworth.

Dr. Bunch continued the Operation's Report discussing the timeline for the completion of the Mullins High School Fire Panel and requested an executive session for contractual matter.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant gave a brief Human Resources update and stated that an executive session would be needed for personnel actions and substitute services.

Dr. Bethea reminded the Board of the request back in the fall for the Retention and Signing Incentive for employees. She stated that we will be moving forward with this incentive.

Academic Update: Montessori: Mrs. Kimberly Fogan and team gave a brief update on the Montessori Program goals and objectives. Dr. Creech, Director of Montessori programs in the Pee Dee Region was also present and gave a brief highlight of the program. Board members presented questions, concerns and comments during this presentation.

Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on some of the recent happenings in MSCD such as Read Across America, Legislative Updates regarding teacher salary schedule increases, Interim Reports, Virtual Academy, Art in the Park and the Cognia visit. Dr. Bethea stated that the Cognia visit will be similar to the AdvancED visit but virtual. She also provided other general system departmental updates and addressed other concerns from the Board

Dr. Bethea gave an update on the Reconfiguration Committee.

Review and Action: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfers and releases to the Board for

approval. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve this request. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; and it was approved. (Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

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 such as Protocol for Bus Driver referrals, use of cell phones in classrooms, update on the percentage of children reading at grade level, Drug dog / Metal Detective, Drug Testing and Academic & Test scores of the Montessori Program. Dr. Bethea addressed several of their concerns during the meeting.

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

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

Chairperson White stated that the Board's reason for going into executive session was for the following: personnel report, hiring, bids, contractual -Trane, LED, property disposition, property rental, lease agreement, substitute teacher services, fiscal statue, Superintendent's evaluation tool, reconfiguration and a request for a student athletic appeal.

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

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

Chairperson White presented a letter to Vice-Chairperson recusing herself from any discussion or voting on the matter of rental of facility by the Palmetto Disaster Recovery due to the author of the request is a relative of mine.

Chairperson Atkinson made a motion to hear student athletic appeal at our next regular April Board Meeting in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Davis; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson made a motion to accept the LED signs Bid from Signs Unlimited from Lugoff, South Carolina, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the Substitute Services bid as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs.

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

Mrs. Foxworth made the motion to take the approach of listing properties through multiple agents for sale as recommended, seconded by Mr. Davis; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown and Chairperson White).

Mrs. Foxworth made the motion to accept the engineering cost for Trane as recommended, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

Mrs. Neal made the motion that employees A.1.a and A.2.a on personnel actions for March 15, 2022 be reported to the South Carolina State Department of Education for breach of contract and that all other recommendations for retirement, resignations and employment be accepted, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the Board approved 6 for (Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Neal). 1 nay- Mrs. Foxworth.

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions identified in the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth and Rev. Brown).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson made a motion to move forward with the first phase of the parking lot resurfacing by Brownstone, seconded by Rev. Brown; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal). The Meeting adjourned @ 10.32 pm.