

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

February 15, 2022

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

Board Members Absent: Rev. Cynthia V. Brown

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 Cindy Smith, Pastor of Shiloh United Methodist Church of Marion, South Carolina. The Board thanked Reverend Smith for her presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-White welcomed the staff, students and parents to the February 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. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the February 15, 2022 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, 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 January 18, 2022. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections; and the vote was 5 for (Chairperson White, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal); and 1 abstention. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson abstained from voting due to being absent during the January 18, 2022 meeting).

60 Seconds in MCSD and Palmetto Middle School: Mr. Franklyn McInnis assisted Mr. Mark Fraiser, Principal of Johnakin Middle School as he highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students.

Staff and Student Recognition: Dr. Kandace Bethea 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 January 2022: Mrs. Donna Sullivan provided the financials for the month of January as information. After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mrs. Sullivan for the finance report. Dr. Bethea acknowledged that Mrs. Angel Cooper was in transition for the Finance Director's position.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Leon Sturkey gave a brief operation's update to the Board and stated that he would need 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.

Locally Approved High School Credit Courses: Mrs. Becky Ford gave an update on the local approved High School credit courses and presented them to the Board for approval. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the request. Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the request and; it was approved. (Chairperson White, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal and Vice-Chairperson Atkinson).

2022-2023 Calendar: Ms. Melonie Gordon gave an update on the calendar choices for 2022-2023. Calendar A was chosen and presented to the Board for approval. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve this recommendation and; it was approved. (Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pridgen).

Student Services Protocols/Procedures: Mrs. Martina Rush gave a brief update on the various types of bullying and the protocol and procedure for reporting it. She informed the Board that students and staff are encouraged to **“Say something if they see something.”**

Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the recent happenings in MSCD such as schools celebrating 100 days of being in school, Spelling Bees taking place in all of our Elementary and Middle Schools, partnering with a company called BOOST who provided books to all of our Primary and Elementary schools and Creek Bridge STEM Academy hosting a school wide book reading. She also talked about the American Heart Association activities being highlighted, Mullins Cheerleaders winning and the Mullins Basketball Team winning Regional Champs and hosting at least one Town Hall Meeting.

Dr. Bethea 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 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).

Chairperson White presented a letter recusing herself from voting on the Robotics trips due to her daughter being part of the team. This part of the meeting was turned over to Vice-Chairperson Atkinson.

Review and Action: Dr. Bethea presented the Over-Night travel for ACT First Robotics to compete in the Regional Event to be held in Anderson, South Carolina on March 9th through the 12th, 2022; Out-of-State travel for ACT First Robotics to compete in the FRC Smokey Mountains Regional in Knoxville, Tennessee on March 30th through April 2nd, 2022 and Over-night travel for Marion High School Varsity Wrestling Team to compete for SC AA/A State Wrestling Championship in Anderson, South Carolina on February 25th through 26th, 2022 to the Board for approval.

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the two over-night trips and the out-of-state trip. The trips were compiled into one vote. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve travel as recommended by the Superintendent; and the motion passed 5 for (Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal and Vice-Chairperson Atkinson). 1 recuse – Chairperson White.

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

Redistricting: Attorney Boykins provided a brief update on the redistricting that was finalized on

February 8, 2022.

Agenda Items for next month / Marion County Board Report/Update: Board members expressed their appreciation for the gifts they received for Board Appreciation during the month of January. Mrs. Neal acknowledged that the JAG Students came by the Day Care and performed and were very good. Members inquired about the following:

1. Reading Program (One book a Month)
2. Virtual Academy survey to some degree or evaluate the program.
3. Google classrooms (Members were told that we use Micro Soft).

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson White reminded members of the upcoming SCSBA Annual Convention for New Board Orientation, Board Chair Workshop and Annual Convention workshop beginning February 17th through February 20th 2022.

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

Open Session: Chairperson White asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth 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, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

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

Mrs. Foxworth made the motion to accept the personnel actions and addendum as presented with the exception of granting the release for request for employee A.2.A as listed, seconded by Mr. Davis; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal). The Meeting adjourned @ 8.27 pm.