

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
December 16, 2021

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:02 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: A Moment of Silence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-White welcomed the staff to the December 16, 2021 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 December 16, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Atkinson)

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021 be approved. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson White, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Neal).

60 Seconds in MCSD and MaHS: Mr. Franklyn McInnis assisted Mrs. Mykea Jordan, Principal of Easterling Primary School as she highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for November 2021: Mrs. Sullivan provided the financials for the month of November as information. She stated that the District received funding from taxes and state revenue. After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mrs. Sullivan for the finance report.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Leon Sturkey gave a brief operation's update to the Board about the asbestos abatement, the completion of the Easterling gym flooring and the rebidding of the Johnakin Middle School gym. He stated that he needed an executive session.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant gave a brief update about the staff expectations code of conduct and dress has been addressed and they will be monitored. An executive is also needed for personnel actions and a contractual matter.

Strategic Planning Report/Update: Ms. Melonie Gordon gave an update to the Board on preparation of their Strategic Plan journey. She talked about the vision, cores values, goals, mission and focusing on public education.

Mrs. Wimberly discussed how effective communication creates opportunities for authentic dialogue and build stronger working relationships. She also discussed how the District strive to create a system where students are engaged, parents are participating in school and at home, and there is frequent collaboration between the district and our community partners.

2022-2023: Calendar Options Overview: Ms. Gordon presented information to the Board in reference to the calendar that the District was now preparing for the upcoming school year and that the staff would be voting on the choices.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Bethea presented her Superintendent Updates to the Board. The presentation and discussion included the following: Recent Happenings in MCSD, Community Partnering and donations and Department updates.

Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release recommendations to the Board for approval. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the transfer request as recommended by the Superintendent; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Davis and Chairperson –White.

Review and Action: Dr. Bethea presented the over-Night Travel for Johnakin Middle School Beta Club to the Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from January 12, to January 14, 2022 to the Board for approval. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the overnight travel. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the travel as recommended by the Superintendent; and the vote was 6 for and one abstention. (Chairperson White, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal). 1 abstention – Rev. Brown.

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

The Marion County Board of Education: The Board discussed several concerns, made comments and reviewed the dates to remember.

Redistricting: Chairperson White gave a brief update of the redistricting, along with Attorney Boykins addressing some of the concerns. It was later recommended for executive session to be further discussed.

Committee Updates: The Committees presented no updates at the meeting.

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

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, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

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

into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

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

Mrs. Neal moved that we authorize the Administration to submit Trane's proposal to the South Carolina State Department of Education for approval of funding seconded by Mr. Davis; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for personnel actions except for employee 1.a request to be released is a breach of contract, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the Board voted 6 for (Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, and Mrs. Pridgen) and 1 nay Mrs. Foxworth.

Mrs. Foxworth made the motion that we accept the winning bid for the property known as Southside School, seconded by Rev. Brown; and the Board voted 3 for (Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen) and 4 against (Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Chairperson White). Motion failed.

Mr. Davis moved to accept the Student Education Consulting Group to conduct our for the Marion County Board of Education salary study, seconded by Mrs. Neal; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

Mrs. Pridgen moved to accept the winning bid for the school property known as Britton's Neck School, seconded by Mr. Davis; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal).

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal). The Meeting adjourned @ 7.50 pm.