

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
October 19, 2021

Board Members Present: Chairperson- Ogleretta White, Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson 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 6:03 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: A Moment of Silence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-White welcomed the staff to the October 19, 2021 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson White asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the October 19, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis, Chairperson-White and Mrs. Atkinson)

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2021 and the Communication Committee Meeting of October 6, 2021 be approved. Vice Chairperson-Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the minutes with the necessary correction; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Foxworth, Vice Chairperson-Atkinson and Mrs. Neal).

60 Seconds in MCSD and NMP: Mr. Franklyn McInnis assisted Ms. Farrah Owens, Principal of Academy for Early Learning as she highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for September 2021: Dr. Bethea informed the Board that Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Mrs. Cooper were attending a finance workshop at the beach and Mr. Matt Bessetti will give us a finance update. Mr. Bessetti provided the financials for the month of September. He stated that tax revenue would be coming in around December, January and February to offset the negative. After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Bessetti for the finance report.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Leon Sturkey gave a brief operation's update to the Board and stated that he needed an executive session.

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

Student Services Report Updates: Mrs. Martina Rush gave a brief update on the revised Policy ADD- Face Covering and presented it for 1st Reading Approval. Mrs. Nadine Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Levant to give first reading approval for Revised Policy ADD-Face Covering; and

the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson –White and Mr. Davis).

Superintendent’s Update: Dr. Bethea presented her Superintendent Updates to the Board. The presentation and discussion included the following: MCS D Reconfiguration Plan discussed on a potential high school merger, Cognia Accreditation, Bus driver hiring event and general department updates.

Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release recommendations to the Board for approval. Mrs. Neal 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, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Davis and Chairperson -White).

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

Marion County Board of Education Report/ Updates: Chairperson White recognized the committees and gave each one the opportunity to present their report.

Communication Administrative Review Committee: The members Mrs. Linda Neal, Chairperson White and Mrs. Susan Pridgen held their first meeting on October 6, 2021 at the Central Office at noon. Mrs. Neal gave an overview and stated that their main purpose was to establish beneficial communication guidelines to promote and facilitate positive interaction with the community, school board members and the school district. This committee will seek to activate a more positive working relationship among all entities involved and will meet every first Wednesday at noon for one hour.

Legislative Advocacy Program Committee: The members Mr. Levant Davis, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Mrs. Nadine Foxworth stated that they had not met officially, but talked briefly over the phone about their purpose.

Finance Committee: The members Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen and Mrs. Nadine Foxworth had not officially met. Rev. Brown stated that they would be meeting to review and understanding the budget.

Review and Action: 2021 SCSBA Delegate Assembly Certification: Chairperson White stated that Marion County School Board will have two votes at the SCSBA Legislature and Delegate Assembly meeting in Charleston, South Carolina in December. We will need to nominate two delegates and an alternate. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chair Atkinson and Mrs. Nadine Foxworth will be the delegates and Mr. Levant Davis will be the alternate if needed. The selections were approved by consensus.

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: The Board discussed several concerns and reviewed the dates to remember. Dr. Bethea stated that Ms. Meghan Walker from the South Carolina Ethics Commission has been contacted and she will be available to provide ethics training during January. We will follow up on a date and time for this training

Executive Session: Executive Session: Chairperson White asked for a motion to go into

executive session for Legal briefing, Contractual Matters and Personnel. Rev. Brown 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. Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen 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 made the motion to report employees A.3.a and A.3.c on the Personnel Actions for October 19, 2021 for breach of contract to the South Carolina State Department of Education and furthermore to not accept the request for release of contract for employee A.7.a, seconded by Rev. Brown; 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)

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen Foxworth that we accept the bids for Area 7 ground recommendations with Lot A going to Hayes Lawn Landscaping and Lot B going to Water Mill Land Care and Landscaping; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Chairperson White, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis.

Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Davis that we accept the lowest bid for the basketball floor at Johnakin Middle School; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. Davis, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Neal and Mrs. Foxworth).

Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to authorize Chairperson White to hire a hearing officer whenever there is an appeal; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Neal).

Mrs. Foxworth stated that she needed to excuse herself from anything pertaining to the property starting today.

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen 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 @ 10.00 pm.