

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
August 17, 2021

Board Members Present: Chairperson- Ogleretta White, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Mrs. Linda Neal.

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Susan Pridgen and Mr. Levant Davis.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 August 17, 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. Foxworth to approve the August 17, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White and Mrs. Atkinson)

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2021, Special Called Meeting of June 24, 2021 and the Special Called Meeting of the August 5, 2021 be approved. Vice Chairperson-Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Vice Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. Neal and Rev. Brown).

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance: Finance Report for July 2021. Mrs. Donna Sullivan gave a brief update on the Finance Report for July 2021 and also stated that the revenue exceeded the expenditures during the month. The Board thanked Mrs. Sullivan for the finance report.

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

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant stated that she needed an executive session for personnel actions.

Student Services Update - Code of Conduct: Mrs. Martina Rush gave a brief update in reference to the Code of Conduct that helps detail what we expect from our students. The Board thanked Mrs. Rush for the Student Services Update.

Teaching and Learning Updates: Ms. Melonie Gordon presented Policy IKA- and Policy IKA Administrative Rule Grading Assessment System for 1st Reading approval. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to give first reading approval for Policy IKA and Policy IKA Administrative Rule: and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson –White and Rev. Brown).

2021- 2022 Academic Initiatives Update: Ms. Shalah Sweeney gave a brief update on Marion County School District receiving approval for staggered entry for all kindergarten students, new math resources for kindergarten – eighth grade and the Teaching and Learning Department completing their summer curriculum work/professional development sessions. The Board thanked Ms. Sweeney for the Academic Initiatives Update.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Bethea presented her Superintendent Updates to the Board. The presentation and discussion included the following: First day for Students; Staggered Attendance; Convocation 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. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal 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. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, and Chairperson -White).

Public Participation: None

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: The Board reviewed the dates to remember and discussed some concerns.

Executive Session: 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 (Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

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

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

Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal that we authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take action as recommended by the Center of Disease Control or the South Carolina Department of Health and Control to develop protocols to comply with the recommendations of the agencies. I further move that we authorize the Superintendent to implement such protocols until such time as the Board of Education can convene in a duly called meeting to review and act on the protocols such meeting within three days.

Finally, I move that this special authorization be limited to the COVID-19 and in compliance with South Carolina Law; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown and Chairperson White).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions to exclude the following 5A, Addendum 1A, and Addendum 2A as not recommended for release and are considered as breach of contract. As to exclude Addendum 4A as not recommended for release and considered breach of contract if documentation is not received by requested date; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown and Chairperson White

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal). The Meeting adjourned @ 8.10 pm.