

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

### Revised Minutes of Special Called Meeting

August 5, 2021

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

**Board Members Absent:** Vice-Chairperson Atkinson

**Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop:** The Board meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 5, 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 Mrs. Foxworth to approve the August 5, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White and Mr. Davis).

**Special Presentation - SCSBA Boardmanship Achievement:** Special recognition was given to Mrs. Nadine Foxworth and Mrs. Susan Pridgen for reaching level two and their services for Marion County School District as Board members from the South Carolina School Board Association during the meeting. Dr. Bethea, along with Chairperson White presented them with the certificate and pin and by Mrs. Deborah Wimberly took pictures.

**Special Presentation – Healthy Learners:** Ms. Dee Newell, Healthy Learners Program Manager presented information on the program. She stated that Health Learners is a faith-based non-profit organization that works with students, parents and schools to provide medical assistance in transporting students to and from doctor and dentist appointment, pick up student's prescriptions from pharmacies, provide vision and hearing screenings and other services. No payment is required from the school district, but is encouraged through grants.

**Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:**

**Facilities/Operations Report:** Dr. Bunch, along with Mrs. Karen Scruggs presented the Operation's report return to school safety practices update.

Dr. Kandace Bethea presented the request for Easterling Primary Gym Floor to be discussed in executive session.

**Human Resources Report / Updates** – Mrs. Paula Grant presented Personnel actions to the Board for approval as recommended by the Superintendent. Chairperson White asked for approval of personnel actions as recommended by the Superintendent. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the personnel actions as recommended; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White and Mr. Davis).

**Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Bethea presented her Superintendent updates to the Board. (See attached report).

**ESSER II: Dr. Bethea stated that she needed to discuss the ESSER II funding in executive session.**

**Organizational Chart:** Dr. Bethea presented the organizational chart to the Board per the Board's request.

**Salary Schedule:** Dr. Bethea presented a recommendation increase of the bus drivers salary schedule based on correspondence from SDE. Chairperson White asked for approval of the Superintendent's recommendation. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the recommendations; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White and Mr. Davis).

The Board discussed salaries regarding Steps vs years. Dr. Bethea recommended a salary study. The Board agreed by consensus.

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

**Field Trip: ACT/First Robotics Competition:** Dr. Bethea presented the field trip for the ACT First Robotics for recommendations to the Board for approval. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the transfer request as recommended by the Superintendent; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson -White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pridgen).

**Public Participation:** None

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** The Board discussed several items of concern such as receiving calendar of events, the fees that the schools will be charging students and will they be mandatory, placing the pay scale on the website for the public, checking the blackboards due to a concern about fees coming from Mullins High School and where we are with the Old Britton's Neck School project. Dr. Bethea addressed several of these concerns at the meeting and informed the Board that she would provide them with the other information requested. Dr. Bethea also informed the Board of the Vaccination Clinic to be held on August 16, 2021 during Open House and location of the School sites (Marion High, Mullins High and Creek

Bridge Middle School). Mrs. Foxworth informed the Board that shots would be given at Grice's Recreational on this upcoming Saturday from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. Mrs. Neal stated that St. Paul Baptist Church would also be offering the vaccine this Saturday from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.

**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 (Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

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

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

Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to accept Operation's recommendation for Southern Flooring in Greenville, South Carolina for the replacement of the gym floor at Easterling Primary School; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to accept the recommendation as it pertains to the Organizational Chart; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White and Mrs. Foxworth).

**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, Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis). Meeting adjourned @ 9:07 pm.