

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 15, 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-Patricia Atkinson

**Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop:** The Board meeting was called to order at 6:06 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 June 15, 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. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the June 15, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White and Mr. Davis).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson White asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2021 be approved. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the minutes; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Foxworth).

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

**Finance Report May 2021:** Mr. Lane gave a brief overview of the finance report for the month of May stating that the revenues outpaced the expenditures by over \$418,000. This gives us another good revenue month that is needed for the month of June when staff will be leaving the District for retirement and or to pursue other endeavors. Mr. Lane also acknowledged that the Auditors were in conducting their pre-audit work and would be back in the fall to complete their work after the books are closed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Approval 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget:** Mr. Lane presented the 2021-2022 proposed budget of \$37,384,293 for Board approval with a 2 mil increase. The budget report reflects the increases and decreases in revenue and expenditures to make it a balanced budget. A brief explanation of the type of revenue that makes up the budget and past history of the expenditure side were given. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal and Mr. Davis).

**Facilities/Operations Report:** Mr. Sturkey presented the Operation's report update for the month of May (See Attached).

He presented several review and action items to be discussed in executive session. The Board agreed to take action on everything after executive session.

**Human Resources Report / Updates** – Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for Personnel actions.

**Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Bethea presented the Board with an update of her report. (See attached report).

**Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release:** Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release recommendations to the Board for approval. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Davis 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).

**Policy Revision Updates: Second Reading Approval:** Chairperson White stated that policies BAA, BBAA, BBAA-R, BBBA, BBBC, BBBE, BC, BD, BD-R, BDE, BE, BEDB, BEDH, BEDJ, BEDL, BEDM, BEDN, BG/BGD and BIE were sent to you for your review of the previous changes that were made. They are being presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading approval. Chairperson White asked for a motion to give 2<sup>nd</sup> reading approval to the 2021 revised Board Policies. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson White, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Neal).

Mrs. Hopper was instructed to send revised Board policies to the South Carolina School Board Policy Revision to be updated.

**Public Participation:** None

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** The Board discussed several items. Members discussed several ways of showing appreciation to teachers and staff for their services. Dr. Bethea stated that they have plans of doing something for the staff.

An incentive of \$100, along with gift cards and treats were suggested for students getting their vaccinated. After a brief discussion, Chairperson White asked members to reach out to agencies and organizations for incentives to give students during the pre-back-to-school vaccination drive. Mrs. Neal (Eastern Stars / Masonic Lodges), Rev. Brown (Faith Base), Mrs. Foxworth (Wal-Mart / Local Government), Mrs. Pridgen (Small Businesses) Mr. Davis (Southern Part of the County) and Chairperson White (Sororities) were asked to reach out for gift card incentives. There was a brief discussion about partnering with the different healthcare agencies and clinics to provide the vaccinations. Tentative dates suggested were July 20, 2021 and August 3, 2021 in the mornings. Dr. Bethea introduced Dr. Bunch as the Assistant Superintendent and he will officially begin work July 1, 2021.

**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. Pridgen 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 Mrs. Foxworth 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. Neal moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to accept personnel and as it relates to employee A as requested; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to accept Mr. Sturkey's recommendation for Pest Control, Painting and Student Insurance; 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. Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis). Meeting adjourned @ 9:33 pm.

# **Marion County Board of Education**

## **Operations Report**

**June 2021**

### **Facilities/Operations Report**

#### **Facilities Study**

District staff will meet with Mr. Collier, the Founding Principal and President of Brownstone, and members of their team on June 14, to discuss the study. When the study is completed, the district will have an overview of current facilities, an estimated cost, and a timeline for completion.

#### **Review and consent**

Staff is asking for consent to accept bids for the following services:

- Painting at Academy of Early Learning, North Mullins, Palmetto Middle School, and Success Academy at Palmetto Education Center
- Student and accident insurance
- Pest Control Services

#### **Selling of Southside Elementary School and Britton's Neck Elementary School**

The Office of School Facilities has forwarded information on the two properties to the South Carolina Highway Department. Once the highway department gives consent, the sale will need to be approved by the State Board of Education.



Tuesday, June 15, 2021

*We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire*

**General Administrative Reminders/Updates:**

The 2020-21 school year has been a memorable one and I wish to express how proud I am of our exceptional students, staff, parents and Board for successfully navigating through innumerable challenges during the pandemic. A special thank you to the Board for your unwavering support as we strived to make decisions in the best interest of our students.

We are extremely proud of our 2021 graduates! Culminating the last two years of their high school careers during a pandemic took hard work and resiliency! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Based on comments from the Board, I have asked Mrs. Hopper to begin researching the possibility of robes for our Board of Trustee for graduation.

The State Department of Education is requiring a Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan as a part of ESSER III requirements. The plan will be posted to the district's website for public review. Mr. Sturkey, leader of the Pandemic Team, will provide additional information regarding the plan during the upcoming Board meeting.

We have received results from our Employee Exit Surveys. In summary, we had 38 respondents to complete the survey. The top reason for leaving the district was relocation, with next two top reasons being retirement and accepting other employment for a more competitive salary and benefits. Board members have been provided a snapshot of the survey results.

**Human Resources:**

Although this year has posed many challenges, we are excited that we are once again able to honor and celebrate, in person, our Teachers of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, Emerging Teacher of the Year, Bus Driver of the Year and Retirees. As we close out our 2020-2021 school year, we are already underway in getting our On-Boarding teams ready to welcome in our new hires, plan and prepare for New Employee Orientation, and host our first professional development session for our Induction I teachers.

**Student Services:**

The Behavioral Alliance of South Carolina has partnered with our district to provide coaching and support to school administrators as it relates to Social-Emotional Learning and mapping district and community resources. Training has been scheduled and will be provided to all Principals, Assistant Principals and Assistant Administrators on July 22nd at the Academy for Careers and Technology.

**Technology:**

The Technology Department is in the process of collecting student devices and preparing to repair and reimaging them so they are ready to be issued at the start of the next school year. We are still awaiting the arrival of the new laptops that were ordered for all certified staff and administrators. Those devices will be prepped, inventoried and ready for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

**Federal Programs:**

ESSER II has been completed and submitted to SCDE for approval.

File FY' 22 is due June 31, 2021.

SEA FY'22 is due July 1, 2021.

All amendments for federal grants ending September 30, 2021 have been submitted to SCDE for approval.

SPED is preparing for Extended School Year for those students who qualify.

**Public Relations:**

- The final configurations have been installed for our streaming media equipment and we are now finished. This will not only be ready to stream School Board meetings, but it will be available for other uses as the Superintendent sees fit.
- Returning student online registration is now open

**Teaching & Learning:**

- Academic Recovery Camps, Summer Reading Camp, and Summer School will begin on Monday, June 14, 2021.
- Summer professional development sessions will be held in late July and early August
- Virtual Academy placements were finalized.
- Schools have completed standardized testing.