

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 18, 2021

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

Board Members Virtual: Mrs. Nadine Foxworth

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 May 18, 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 Mr. Davis to approve the May 18, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Vice-Chairperson- Atkinson, 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 April 20, 2021 and the minutes of the Policy Revision for April 27, 2021 be approved. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the minutes; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Vice Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Foxworth).

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report March 2020: Mr. Lane gave a brief update on the State Budget revenue projections for the fiscal year 2021-2022 that are still under discussion. Lawmakers are looking at returning back for a special session June 8-10, June 21-23 and June 29-30. The Finance Report for the month of April was presented to the Board for their review. Mr. Lane stated that our revenues outpaced our expenditures by over \$400,000 giving us a good revenue month. We are also looking tentatively at June 8, 2021 to present 1st Reading Approval for the 2021-2022 Proposed budget. The date was approved by consensus.

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

He presented several of the review and action items that needed 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 recommendation to the Board for approval. Mrs. Pridgen 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, Chairperson -White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pridgen).

Review and Action: Governor's Executive Order: Policy ADD- Face Covering: Dr. Bethea presented the modification of Policy ADD to the Board for their review and approval. Students who request to be exempted from wearing a face covering, parents/ legal guardians are asked to sign an opt-out form. Students riding public transportation will be required to wear a mask as long as he or she is on the bus. This falls under the Federal guidelines. I am still requiring my staff to wear a mask. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the modification of Policy ADD – Face Covering. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

Attorney Boykin asked that the Board continue their concerns in executive session pertaining to the Governor's Executive Order of Policy ADD.

Policy Revision Updates: First Reading Approval: Chairperson White stated that policies BAA, BBAA-R, BBBC, BBBE, BD, BD-R, BE, BEDB, BEDH and BEDN were sent to you for your review of the previous changes that we made and at this time they are being presented for 1st Reading approval. Mrs. Neal stated that the second sentence in the first paragraph of Policy BAA (Board Self-Evaluation) was incomplete. Mrs. Hopper stated that the word during should be removed. Chairperson White asked for a motion to give first reading approval to the 2021 revised board policies with the correction of BAA. Rev. Cynthia Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson White, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Neal). Chairperson-White asked Mrs. Hopper to bring all of the selected board Policies to the next meeting.

Public Participation: None

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Board Members were given the opportunity to express their concerns or make comments. Congratulations were sent out to early graduates and the Montessori Program. There were questions and concerns in reference to the student having some type of prom. After a brief discussion, the Board asked Dr. Bethea to check into planning some type of activity or whatever they could do safely and whatever they could do to help make this possible. Chairperson White reminded Board Members of the upcoming events, places and time.

Executive Session: Executive Session: Chairperson White asked for a motion to go into executive session for Legal briefing, Contractual Matters and Personnel. Rev. Cynthia Brown

moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, 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. Pridgen 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, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis).

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

Vice- Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to accept the bid by Coastal Sanitary for Janitorial Supplies and accept the bids by Light House Financial for area 1, Williams Landscape for area 2 and Perfect Cuts for area 7 as requested; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve RFP's for the following designated services: Gym Floor replacement at Easterling Primary; Painting at North Mullins Primary, The Academy of Early Learning, Palmetto Middle School and Success Academy; and Parking lots repairs at Marion High School, Mullins High School, the Academy for Early Learning and the Easterling bus loop; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White and Mrs. Foxworth).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the abatement of asbestos and a permit for the demolition of the Old Britton's Neck Elementary School and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pridgen).

Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to accept personnel actions as it pertains to personnel recommended by the Superintendent; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pridgen).

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

Marion County Board of Education

Operations Report

May 2021

Facilities/Operations Report

Facilities Study

The goal of the study is to have the following evaluated: comfort, security, accessibility, illumination, ventilation, aesthetics, mechanical system, plumbing, electrical systems, telecommunications, fire suppression, athletic facilities, playgrounds, and parking lots. The Brownstone group from Columbia was selected to conduct the study. District staff met with Mr. Collier, the Founding Principal and President of Brownstone, and members of their team on May 10, 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.

Mullins High School Fire Alarm Panel

The contract has been sent to the contractor from the architects. The contract includes that change order over 10% of the total cost must receive board approval. Once the contracts are signed by the contractor and the district, the anticipated start day is May 25, 2021.

Bid Opening for Janitorial Supplies and Lawn Maintenance

Bids were received on May 17, 2021. Bid opening for lawn maintenance will be on Microsoft Teams at 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM for janitorial supplies. The lawn maintenance bid will be awarded to three different bidders. This will ensure timeliness of the lawn maintenance. Those contractual matters will need executive session.

Staff is asking to issue RFP's for the following services:

- Parking lot repairs at Marion High School, Mullins High School, and the Academy of Early Learning, and the Easterling bus loop.
- Painting at North Mullins Primary, The Academy of Early Learning, Palmetto Middle School, and Success Academy.
- Gym floor replacement at Easterling Primary School.

NextEra Energy

Staff met with Mr. Brendan King from NextEra Energy Resources on May 5, 2021. Mr. King provided information pricing options to have the solar panels on the land adjacent to Marion Intermediate School. Information will be share Tuesday evening, and this contractual issue will need to be discussed in executive session.

Old Britton's Neck Elementary

The district has gotten the asbestos report for the Old Britton's Neck Elementary School, and now seeking approval to issue an RFP for asbestos abatement, and a permit for demolition. Marion County will have the building demolished if the district can have the abatement conducted and acquire the permit.

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

Staff received notice from Ms. Kiawania Reed, the administrative assistant from The Office of School Facilities requesting additional information. Staff continues to work with OSF to provide the information requested.



Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire

General Administrative Reminders/Updates from the Office of Superintendent:

Mask Update:

The District is in the process of reviewing the Governor's Executive Order as it relates to needed changes to the Marion County School District Board Policy ADD that was adopted in October 2020. In consultation with legal counsel, we will be providing recommendations to the Board for Review and Action.

State Testing:

State testing will begin next week. A testing schedule is attached for your reference.

Vaccinations Update:

Currently, all South Carolinians aged 16 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines. DHEC is currently providing Moderna vaccines, which are only approved for individuals 18 years and older. Karen Scruggs, the district's lead nurse, is communicating with our medical partners to ensure that staff and students are made aware of vaccination opportunities as they become available.

An informational brochure regarding the services and responsibilities of School Counselors will be provided to Board members at their desk as well as a brochure that captures the district's innovative programs, so that Board members can help us promote them.

Human Resources:

The month of May always holds some excitement and little anticipation. We are finalizing our 2020-2021 school year by completing evaluations, recommendations and staff recognitions and also planning for our up-coming 2021-2022 school year with confirming staffing needs, hiring and continuing to recruit for quality staff for any vacancies. We will host our End-of-the-Year celebration program on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM at the Central Services Office to recognize our Teachers of the Year, Retirees, Support Staff of the Year, Bus Driver of the Year and Name our District Teacher of the Year. We invite each of you to join us!

Student Services:

S.P.A.R.K., our Summer Arts Enrichment Program, received applications from 108 students. Student auditions will be held virtually beginning with the week of May 17th and ending May 28th. Both programs will be housed at the ACT building beginning June 14th and ending July 1, 2021.

Technology:

The Technology Department continues to prep for summer projects. Additionally, we have finalized the purchase of new devices for our certified instructional staff with rollout planned for the start of the 2021-22 school year. We are also working on a plans for ESSER II projects to replace the old interactive white boards, old document cameras as well as the purchase of OWL cameras for classroom use. Finally, we are working to repair as many student devices as possible in preparation for the online portion of the State Testing.

Federal Programs:

- ESSER II Plan is in progress
- Title I Plan FY '22 is in progress
- Amendments for funds ending September 30 have been submitted and approved by SCDE.
- Special Services ALT testing window closes on May 14, 2021.
- An internal audit of programs used SPED is being conducted in conjunction with teachers to make continuation decisions.

Teaching & Learning:

- The 2021 Youth Art Show-Visual Art Showcase was held virtually. The virtual showcase was shared on You Tube and on May 10, 2021, the awards were announced on Facebook live.
- Four students from Johnakin Middle School auditioned to receive scholarships to study with the Florence Symphony Guild. 7th grader, Sariya Washington was selected to study with the guild this summer.
- Final Strategic Plan Update submitted to SDE on April 30, 2021. The district has started a new 5-year plan to be implemented beginning in August 2021.
- Schools distributed Report to the Parents to share information.
- Schools are participating in Data Consultation Sessions with NWEA to analyze MAP data and prepare for next year.
- We are in the process of the Curriculum Review for North Mullins Primary and Easterling Primary School.