

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 20, 2021

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

**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 April 20, 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. Neal to approve the April 20, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson- Atkinson, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal and Mr. Davis).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson White asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2021, Minutes of the Strategic Planning/ Policy Revision, March 30, 2021 and Minutes of the Budget Workshop Phase II / Policy Revision April 13, 2021 be approved. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the minutes; and the vote was unanimous. (Vice Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White and Mrs. Foxworth).

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

**Student Services Updates/Report:** Mrs. Martina Rush presented a Power Point on the Gifted and Talented Program for Exceptional children and exceptional learning. She informed the Board of the South Carolina State Board of Education Regulation 43-220 which outlines the requirements and procedures for identifying gifted and talented students. After a brief question and answer session, the Board thanked Mrs. Rush and Dr. Bethea for the report.

**Finance Report March 2020:** Mr. Lane presented the Finance Report for the month of March. After Mr. Lane's presentation, the Board thanked him for the report.

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

He stated that he would need Board approval for contractual services for 2021-2022 School Year (RFP for lawn maintenance, pest control and janitorial supplies) and negotiations for NextEra Energy. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the Contractual services for 2021-2022 (RFP) and NextEra Energy negotiation. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve this request

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

He also stated that an executive session would be needed to discuss the facilities study and the Mullins High School Fire Alarm Panel.

**Human Resources Report / Updates** – Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for Personnel and Professional staff recommendations.

**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. Neal moved, seconded by Rev. Brown 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).

**Public Participation:** None

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** Chairperson White presented the tentative date of April 27<sup>th</sup> and time (3:00 pm) for the Special Policy workshop for reviewing and revising the County Board policies. After a brief discussion, the members agreed by consensus on the Special Policy meeting. Chairperson White stated that during the May meeting, the revised policies would be presented for first reading approval.

**Executive Session: Executive Session:** Chairperson White asked for a motion to go into executive session for Facility Study, Mullins High School Fire Alarm Panel, Contractual Contracts, Personnel and legal updates. Rev. Cynthia Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal 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).

**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, Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis).

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

Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the facility study as requested as it pertains to staff proceeding further with one of the four firms interviewed; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to accept the approval for the District to replace the Mullins High School fire alarm panel; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Vice- Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to accept our regular monthly

Personnel Actions, the Professional Staff Recommendation of our current employees for the 2021-2022 school year and the Administrative recommendations 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, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis).