

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

Virtual Zoom Screening

January 19, 2021

Board Members Present By Zoom: (Virtual Screening / You-tube/Live): Chairperson-Ogleretta White, Mrs. Susan Pridgen, Mr. Levant Davis, Mrs. Nadine Foxworth and Mrs. Linda Neal.

Board Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson Patricia Atkinson and Rev. Cynthia V. Brown.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Meeting: The Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson White at 6:03 p.m. 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 and a copy of the Agenda was also provided.

Moment of Silence: Everyone paused for a moment of silence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson White welcomed the staff and visitors to the Virtual January 19, 2021 meeting. She acknowledged that Vice-Chair Atkinson lost her father and Rev. Brown lost her mother since our last meeting and they are not in attendance. Mrs. Foxworth is present, but may have to leave due to a family emergency. Dr. Kandace Bethea, Attorney Charles Boykin and other District staff were also present.

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 January 19, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal and Mr. Davis).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked that the minutes of December 15, 2020 be approved. Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the Minutes of December 15, 2020; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson-White and Mrs. Foxworth).

Board Appreciation Month/SCSBA Board Recognition: Dr. Bethea acknowledged that it was SCSBA Board Recognition month by recognizing board members for their services. Since the meeting was virtual, members were asked to drive-through on Thursday and pick up appreciation baskets from the District Office. Mrs. Neal was recognized by the SCSBA for her 10 years of service. Chairperson-White informed Mrs. Neal that at the next on site meeting they would present her with the pin and certificate.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report December 2020: Mr. Lane presented the Finance Report for the month of December. He stated with January taxes coming in that would increase the revenue over expenditures.

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

Trane Performance Based Contract: Mr. Sturkey introduced Mr. Richard Penner, a Representative of the Trane Performance Based Contracting Company to the Board. . Mr. Penner gave a brief update on the project and how it would work with the upgrading and reduction in cost of things such as Led lighting, water conservation, energy management system and HVAC replacements at the High School. After the presentation, Mr. Penner stated that he would return if needed. Mr. Sturkey stated that an executive session would be needed.

GovDeals.com: Mr. Sturkey stated that he would need an executive session for GovDeals.com. This company would allow the district to have access to 3.7 million registered bidders internationally and also handle the process from start to finish.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant presented the personnel actions to be discussed in executive session before approval.

Administrative Rule – Policy GCC-R (3) and GDC-R (3): Mrs. Paula Grant presented the updated Administrative Rules - GCC-R (3) and GDC-R (3) to the Board as information.

Student Services Administrative Rule – Policy JIAA-R and JE-R: Mrs. Martina Rush presented the updated Administrative Rules – JIAA-R and JE-R to the Board as information.

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

COVID 19 and Remote Learning Update: Dr. Bethea, along with Nurse Karen Scruggs presented updated information to the Board in reference to staff and student safety according to the DHEC/CDC guidelines.

Public Participation: None

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson White extended an invitation to Board Members to express comments. They were reminded of upcoming meetings and events.

Dr. Bethea stated that the Marion County School District would continue virtually until February 1, 2021 according to the DHEC/CDC updates.

Executive Session: Chairperson-White asked for a motion to enter executive session for Contractual matters, Personnel and Legal updates. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to enter into executive session; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

Open Session: Chairperson White asked for a motion to exit executive session and re-enter open session. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Foxworth).

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

Personnel: Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to accept the Superintendent's recommendation as it pertains to personnel, grant recommendation for teacher 1; but teacher 2 and 3 be recommended for breach of contract; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Foxworth).

Trane Performance Based Contract: Motion was tabled due to receiving more information.

GovDeals.com: Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the motion to accept the GovDeals.com contract and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Foxworth).

Virtual Called Meeting: Chairperson White stated that a Virtual meeting was needed for next Tuesday or Thursday to discuss Superintendent's evaluation. Mrs. Hopper will reach out to Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Rev. Brown to see which day is more convenient.

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 (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis and Chairperson-White).

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Marion County Board of Education

Operations Report

January 2021

Facilities/Operations Report

Facilities Study

The district is seeking to have a facilities study of our buildings. It is our goal to have the following evaluated in the study: comfort, security, accessibility, illumination, ventilation, aesthetics, mechanical system, plumbing, electrical systems, telecommunications, fire suppression, athletic facilities, playgrounds, and parking lots. It is our goal to bring information of the process and how to proceed to the February board meeting.

Contractual Services evaluations

Operations will conduct evaluations of the following contractual services provided to Marion County School District.

- Pest Control
- Activity Bus repair and maintenance
- Lawn Maintenance
- Architectural Services

Review and action GovDeals.com

- Al Blake and I held a virtual meeting with GovDeals.com staff on January 13th at 10:00 am. GovDeals.com allows the district to have access 3.7 million registered bidders internationally. GovDeals.com handles the process from start to finish. Any cost incurred is paid by the successful bidder.

An overview of the GovDeals.com is listed below:

- Establish separate Real Estate account for all properties to be sold by the District
- Construct the auction page including property descriptions and all Terms and Conditions, including notifying bidders that winning bid is subject to board approval, if needed
- Take quality photographs of properties for the auction listing
- Provide District access to our 3.7 million registered bidders, globally

- Conduct a 30-45-day auction for each property, preferably closing shortly before the District's next board meeting to obtain quick approval/disapproval of winning bid
- Pass all GovDeals fees (5%) to the winning bidder to be paid at closing table
- If desired by District, collect all bidder deposits (preferably \$500-\$1,000)
- If desired by District, require winning bidder put 5%-10% down on the property within 10 days of auction close
- Provide targeting Marketing on each property
- Provide signage for each property
- Once approval to utilize GovDeals.com is received, the following are needed to take place at that time:
 - Establish Real Estate account, including Asset Contacts (who from the District will be answering questions from bidders, hosting inspections by bidders, etc.)
 - District provides GovDeals legal description of each property (if available) and any other documentation, including a copy of the appraisal
 - Establish auction parameters for each property
 - Timeline?
 - Starting Bid/Bid Increment?
 - Bidder Deposit? If so, what amount?
 - Down Payment? If so, what %?
 - Scott Norene will take quality photographs/descriptions and build auction pages for each property.

Scott Norene will work with GovDeals Marketing team to create marketing campaign and signage, if needed, for each property.

Winter Athletics Changes

The South Carolina High League executive committee extended the basketball season 4 days. High School basketball teams will play four region games. The top two girls' and boys' teams will advance to the playoffs.

Trane Performance Based Contracting

This project includes:

- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Domestic Water Conservation
- HVAC replacements (Marion HS)
- Building Envelope and Weatherization improvements
- Building Controls and Energy Management System Upgrades
- High Efficiency Electrical Transformers

The district is seeking approval to proceed with Trane in completing this project.

As a part of the final steps ahead over the next 5 weeks, our MCSD Team needs to pursue a Tax Exempt Municipal Lease to fund this Guaranteed Energy Savings project. Our contact is Mr. Michael Gallagher with Compass Municipal Advisors who has supported MCSD on our previous financial needs and recent financial advice for MCSD. Mr. Gallagher also supports the larger majority of the other 79 school districts in South Carolina.



Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire



General Administrative Reminders/Updates:

On behalf of our administration and students that received gift cards from the MCBOE for the holidays, we extend a special thank you! Your thoughtfulness and generosity made the holidays brighter for several of our families! We also extend gratitude to the MCBOE for approving the holiday/essential worker bonus for the staff. This was a small yet powerful gesture of appreciation!

▪ **Save the Date:**

Tentatively a Board Policy Workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Central Services Office. A representative from the South Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA) will conduct the workshop. Mrs. Hopper will provide Board members with an electronic copy of the draft policies prior to the meeting for review.

▪ **COVID 19 & Remote Learning Update:**

The district's lead nurse, Karen Scruggs and I will provide a very brief update on the district's efforts and processes in place as we continue to be impacted by the pandemic.

▪ **Bill 3069: Joint Resolution**

Bill 3069 will restore teacher STEP increases that were suspended by Act 135 of 2020 due to the financial uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 virus. The appropriation is in the sum of fifty million dollars and will provide for teacher STEP increases for the 2020-21 school year.

▪ **COVID Vaccinations:**

The district is working with MUSC, to get qualifying staff groups vaccinated for Phase 1A and Phase 1B. A staff survey was conducted to determine intent of receiving the vaccination. This information will be shared with MUSC-Marion for planning purposes.

▪ **Audit Presentation:**

The annual audit will be presented at a special called meeting or at the February Board meeting.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has two deadlines for audit submissions, January 15 for financials and January 29 for the single audit. I have contacted the SDE – Auditing Office, to notify them that the district will submit all components of the audit on or before the January 29.

The SCDE – Office of Finance contacted the district to notify us that due to circumstances pertaining to the County of Marion's audit submission to the state's Comptroller General's Office, there is a direct impact on any state and federal disbursements that flow through the Marion County treasurer's office. We have been in communication with the SCDE, the County Administrator and the County's Finance Director regarding this matter.

▪ **Ethics Report :**

Board members should soon be receiving information regarding Ethics Reports, which are due prior to March 30.

▪ **Request for Executive Session for discussion:**

- Contractual Matter (Professional Services)
- Legal Matter (Performance Contract) – *if needed*
- Personnel Matter

Human Resources:

We are excited about our new format for our District's teacher recruitment fair. In the past we have held a one-day fair typically at the end of January. However, due to COVID-19 precautions, we will host a virtual career fair each week starting January 7th through the month of March. Each week of the month is designated for a specific grade-band. This will allow potential applicants licensed for Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Level and Secondary the opportunity to meet specifically with our schools within their desired grades and level of study. We will also issue Letters of Intent to all staff to assist us in the personnel planning for 2021-2022.



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Student Services:

Suite 360 is Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum that has been purchased and will be implemented district-wide beginning the first week in February. All administrators, teachers, counselors, and character coaches will receive training during the week of January 11th – 15th. Additionally, an SEL screener, PanoramaEd has been purchased and will be administered district wide the week of January 25th.

Federal Programs:

Annual Reviews of IEP's are being held January 11- January 29, 2020.

Title I: Policies and procedures regarding foster care students are being developed. Also we are preparing for quarterly spending calculations and upcoming claims.

Teaching and Learning:

Spelling Bee

All elementary and middle schools have held their school Spelling Bee. Each school winner will represent the district in the Regional Spelling Bee on Monday, February 1, 2021. The school winner for each school is listed below.

School	Winner	Grade
Creek Bridge STEM Academy	Ja'Niyah Davis	5 th
McCormick Elementary School	Ariyah Staley	5 th
Marion Intermediate School	Ashlynn Stackhouse	5 th
Johnakin Middle School	Christian Crawford	7 th
Palmetto Middle School	Justin Hatcher	8 th

Winter Writing Prompts

District-wide winter writing prompts were administered to all students in Kindergarten – English 2. Schools are in the process of analyzing their data and preparing to utilize the data to guide their instruction.

Professional Development

Teachers are participating in curriculum reviews to update pacing guides and make instructional decisions for the remainder of the year.

Technology:

The department continues to operate a helpdesk a couple of hours per day Monday through Thursday to help troubleshoot student device problems. For the weeks that the district is completely remote we have extended the helpdesk hours to 4 each day. We're starting to receive replacement parts in a timelier manner so repairs should start taking less time unless there is another backlog with Dell. This week we received parts (mostly screens) that were requested back in October.