

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

### Virtual Zoom Screening

November 17, 2020

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

**Board Members Zoom:** Rev. Cynthia V. Brown

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Call to Order & Notification of Board Meeting:** The Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson White at 6:08 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 November 17, 2020 meeting. Dr. Kandace Bethea, Attorney Charles Boykin and other District staff were present.

**Establishment of Quorum:** Chairperson White verified that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Chairperson White asked that the agenda be approved. Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve November 17, 2020 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Rev. Brown and Vice-Chairperson Atkinson).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson White asked that the minutes of October 20, 2020 be approved. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the Minutes of October 20, 2020; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Foxworth and Vice-Chairperson Atkinson).

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

**Finance Report September 2020:** Mr. Lane presented his Finance report for the month of October. He stated that the Finance Committee has been working this week with the Auditors and things are going well. The State Department has extended the due date for the Audit Report until January, so it will be placed on the December's agenda for review and action.

**Facilities/Operations Report:** Mr. Blake presented the Operation's report in Mr. Sturkey's absence. The District is grateful for the truckload of supplies that were received from the State Department of Education, Habitat and the Census during the pandemic. Mr. Blake asked that the Performance Based Contract be brought back for a later meeting and the Sellers Property request be discussed in executive session. See Attached.

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

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

**Board training:** Dr. Bethea informed the Board that she reached out to Ms. Gwen Hampton and Mrs. Tiffany Richardson in reference to Board Policy Training and team building. At this time, they will only offer Virtual training, but if it is urgent, Ms. Gwen Hampton stated that she can recommend someone. On-site training can be provided after the first of the year if you prefer to wait. The Board agreed to wait for in-person training.

**Supplemental Stipend / Incentive:** Dr. Bethea presented her request to the Board for approval of supplemental stipend/incentive to be given to the staff. She asked for \$200 for full-time and \$100 for part-time staff. Funding will come from several available options. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to accept a one-time supplemental stipend of \$200 for full-time employees and \$100 for part-time employees as written in the November 17, 2020 Memo presented by Dr. Bethea; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

**Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release:** Dr. Bethea presented student transfer and releases to the Board as information. She stated that no Board approval was needed since it was in District transfer. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the student transfers and release presented by Dr. Bethea; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis and Chairperson White).

**Public Participation:** None

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** Chairperson White extended an invitation to Board Members to express their concerns or comments. She reminded them of the next meeting and the upcoming events:

- December 15, 2020: Next Marion County Board of Education Regular Meeting Board Members expressed concerns pertaining to the proper procedure for the chain of command when dealing with issues and concerns from students, parents or staff. Dr. Bethea provided this information to the Board. Mrs. Foxworth asked that this information be provided to the public, the media or placed on the web page for the community to get a better understanding. This will save a lot of time in resolving issues.

**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. Foxworth to enter into executive session; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Rev. Brown).

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

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

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for personnel actions for November 17, 2020; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Foxworth).

Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the alternate use of funding that was discussed for Christmas instead of the Board's Christmas Party; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Davis).

Mrs. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to allow the Attorney to draft letter to the Town of Sellers in response to their request letter dated September 9, 2020, regarding the transfer of the Marion County School District property; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Mr. Davis).

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

# Marion County Board of Education

## Operations Report

November, 2020

### Facilities/Operations Report

#### Personal Protective Equipment

The district has received more desk shields from the South Carolina Department of Education. We have received shields for individual desk and small group tables.

The Marion County Habitat for Humanity donated hand sanitizer and 1000 adult gloves to the district. Those supplies are being distributed to schools

#### Review and Action for Marion County School District Process for Listing Property for Sale

I spoke to Marion County Administrator, Tim Harper in reference to the county's process for listing property. Mr. Harper stated that the county receives sealed bid on property. In the past, the county has not set a minimum bid requirement.

It is the recommendation of the administration that Marion County School District initially place for sale signs on any unused buildings. The district would then set a minimum acceptable bid on the property. The minimum bid would be established by the appraised value of the property; if the property does not receive the minimum bid requirement, after 9 months the district would then list the property with a real estate company.

#### 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. This is a great time to finance a project like this with historical low interest rates that are currently less than 2.9% or lower. 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 79 school districts in South Carolina.

We are seeking approval to move forward for the issuance of a Finance Request for Proposal (RFP) to fund this contract and project.

### Review and Action Property Request

Barbara Hopkins, the mayor of Sellers has inquired about the district donating the land on Antioch Church Road to the Town of Sellers. The district owns the property, and the property at one point was the site of a school in Sellers. The town of Sellers has maintained the property. A copy of the letter from Mayor Hopkins is attached to this report.

### Winter Athletics Changes

The South Carolina High School League provided guidance to schools concerning winter athletics. The following changes are some of the most notable for basketball:

- Only a limited seating. In high school gyms the number will be around 125.
- Balls have to be changed and sanitized throughout the contest.
- The area where the team(s) and officials come onto the floor from their locker room(s) should have a minimum of 6 ft. separation from spectators.
- Pre-game Protocol – Limit participants to 1 captain from each team with each captain standing on the center circle on each side of the division line.
- Suspend handshakes before and following the pre-game conference.
- Pre-Game Ceremonies – Officials should stand at the division line across from team benches during pre-game ceremonies and player introductions.
- Limit the number of bench personnel.
- Only coaches, players in uniform, and medical personnel are allowed on the bench.
- Minimum of 6 ft. separation between the team bench and spectators seating behind the bench.
- Player introductions – As the players are introduced, they should refrain from shaking hands with the officials and go to the area directly in front of their team bench.
- Coaches, players, officials and table personnel should wash and sanitize their hands as frequently as possible before, during and after a game.
- Players, coaches, and game officials should wear face coverings at all times when they are not actively on the basketball court.
- Players, coaches, and game officials are not required to wear face coverings while actively on the basketball court.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible during active play. (Solid Color or contains school or manufacturers logo.)
- To be able to assist with contract tracing, Varsity and JV teams will play the same team twice in one week.

The following are some of the most notable changes for wrestling:

- Wrestlers and officials should wear face coverings at all times when they are not actively on the wrestling mat.

- Officials are not required to wear face coverings while actively on the wrestling mat.
- Officials may wear protective gloves during the match.
- Coaches and Wrestlers should wear a face covering when in the team bench area.
- During weigh-ins, team members should remain 6ft apart at all times.
- Wrestlers should wear a face covering at all times during weigh-ins, EXCEPT when they step onto the scale.
- Officials, trainers, coaches and any other staff involved in weigh-ins should wear face coverings at all times during the weigh-ins.
- COVID-19 screenings should be conducted at weigh-ins on all wrestlers.
- Wrestler's introductions – each wrestler should go to an area in front of their team bench. There shall not be any contact with the officials or opposing team.
- Captain's meeting – only one wrestler from each team and the official will be present. (social distance and mask or face covering suggested)

Winter schedules are attached to this report.



**2020-2021 Mullins Auctioneers Varsity Basketball Schedule**

December 1 Mullins-----Conway----- Away 6:00  
December 4 Mullins-----Hemingway-----Home 6:00  
December 8 Mullins-----Dillon-----Home 6:00  
December 10 Mullins-----Conway-----Home 6:00  
December 11 Mullins-----Hemingway-----Away 6:00  
December 15 Mullins-----Georgetown-----Away 6:00  
December 18 Mullins-----Dillon-----Away 6:00  
January 5 Mullins -----Lee Central-----Away 6:00  
January 8 Mullins-----Lee Central-----Home 6:00  
January 12 Mullins -----Andrews-----Home 6:00  
January 15 Mullins -----Andrews-----Away 6:00  
January 19 Mullins -----Latta -----Home 6:00  
January 22 Mullins -----Latta-----Away 6:00  
January 26 Mullins -----Kingstree-----Away 6:00  
January 29 Mullins -----Kingstree-----Home 6:00  
February 2 Mullins -----Marion-----Home 6:00  
February 5 Mullins -----Marion-----Away 6:00

Principal- Michael Stone  
Athletic Director -- Myron Gerald

School Ph.(843)4643710  
Fax (843)464-3730

Boys Coach - Eric Troy

Girls Coach -- Myron Gerald

**Mullins Auctioneers JV Basketball Schedule**  
**2020-2021**

December 2 Mullins -----Conway-----Away 6:00  
December 7 Mullins-----Dillon-----Away 6:00  
December 10Mullins -----Conway-----Home 4:00  
December 14 Mullins-----Georgetown----- Home 6:00  
December 17 Mullins -----Dillon -----Home 6:00  
January 4 Mullins -----Lee Central -----Home 6:00  
January 7 Mullins -----Lee Central -----Away 6:00  
January 11 Mullins-----Andrews-----Away 6:00  
January 14 Mullins -----Andrews-----Home 6:00  
January 18 Mullins -----Latta -----Away 6:00  
January 21 Mullins ----- Latta-----Home 6:00  
January 25 Mullins ----- Kingstree -----Home 6:00  
January 28 Mullins -----Kingstree-----Away 6:00  
February 1 Mullins -----Marion-----Away 6:00  
February 4 Mullins -----Marion -----Home 6:00

Head Boys Coach – Sean Brunson

Head Girls Coach -

Ath. Dir. – Myron Gerald

**Creek Bridge Stem Academy Basketball Schedule**  
**2020-2021**

November 30 CBSA -----Palmetto ----- Home 5:30

December 3 CBSA -----Latta -----Away 5:30

December 9 CBSA -----Johnakin -----Away 5:30

December 15 CBSA -----Latta -----Home 5:30

December 21 CBSA -----Hannah Pamplico ----Away 5:30

January 11 CBSA -----Palmetto -----Home 5:30

January 19 CBSA -----Johnakin -----Home 5:30

January 25 CBSA -----Hannah Pamplico ----Away 5:30

Head Boys Coach – Herman Waters

Head Girls Coach –

Ath. Dir. – Myron Gerald

Principal: Stacy Wilbanks

**Palmetto Middle School Basketball Schedule**  
**2020-2021**

November 30 PMS -----Creek Bridge -----Away 5:30

December 7 PMS -----Johnakin -----Home 5:30

December 10 PMS -----Latta -----Away 5:30

December 14 PMS -----Hannah Pamplico-----Home 5:30

December 16 PMS -----Latta -----Home 5:30 (?)

December 21 PMS -----Johnakin -----Away 5:30

January 11 PMS -----Creek Bridge -----Home 5:30

January 13 PMS -----Hannah Pamplico -----Away 5:30

Head Boys Coach – Kevin Hamilton  
Head Girls Coach – Morgan Komarny  
Ath. Dir. – Myron Gerald  
Principal – Regina Gilchrist



**Administrative Reminders/Updates:**

- South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA):
  - The SCSBA has completed the draft policies for Section B: Board Governance and Operations. The next step is to schedule a Board Workshop to review the draft policies which will be facilitated by a staff attorney from the SCSBA. The policy session can be scheduled for virtual or in-person delivery. The Board will need to provide two date options for the training to occur.
  - Gwen Hampton, the SCSBA representative who facilitates the Roles and Responsibilities and teambuilding activities for school boards is still not offering in-person training sessions. Mrs. Hampton's recommendation was for in-person sessions, but if the Board is interested in a virtual session, we can move forward with scheduling.
- Strategic Planning:
  - The district is in the process of updating the Strategic planning timeline with a restart happening in December. Efforts were placed on pause due to the pandemic. Our team is working closely with Insight to recover ground in regards to strategic planning efforts that were paused due to the pandemic. The new timeline, tentatively has a Board Strategic Planning Workshop scheduled for February.
- Accreditation Report:
  - The Office of Federal and State Accountability (OFSA) has completed the annual accreditation and monitoring desk audits as required by State Board of Education Regulation 43-300. The findings from these audits give each Board of Trustees a final accreditation classification for the 2019–20 school year. The current status is Cognia Accredited with no areas of deficiency.
- Active Task forces:
  - Beginning with second quarter, several taskforce will be operational over the been activated or will some been active to research several areas o
    - Transportation Taskforce
    - Reconfiguration Phase 2 (Facilities)
    - Virtual Academy Taskforce
- Finance/Budget:
  - Due to the impact of the pandemic, The State Department of Education has extended the deadline for the Annual Audit submission to January 15, yet our goal is to have the audit presented at the December Board of Education meeting.
  - In your Board packet, I have included a copy of school district millage report for your reference. As we begin budget workshops in the spring, we will be looking at the various dynamics associated with education funding.
- COVID 19 Update:
  - Since we have successfully completed Quarter 1, I will provide an update on the impact of COVID within our district as well as discuss some of the successes and challenges of remote/hybrid learning.

**Human Resources:**

We concluded October with assisting staff with their Open Enrollment benefit changes and continued to focus on implementing our retention & recruitment plan. We attended virtual teacher career fairs and met with our On-Boarding team captains to keep the momentum going with support for our new staff. For the months of November and December we will work with our Principals on assessing staff engagement, conducting "stay" interviews and we will host our first "Coffee Chat" recruitment webinar for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Student Services:**

Members of the district's Social and Emotional Learning Leadership team meet each month for the purpose of supporting schools with implementation of SEL. We are in the process of developing our district's vision for SEL.