

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

Virtual Zoom Screening

September 15, 2020

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

Board Members Absent: None

Call to Order & Notification of Board Meeting: The Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson White at 6:06 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. The media was notified 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 September 15, 2020 meeting. Dr. Kandace Bethea, Attorney Charles Boykin and other District staff participated.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson White asked that the agenda be approval. Mrs. Neal moved, second by Mr. Davis to approve September 15, 2020 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Mrs. Foxworth).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked that the minutes of August 18, 2020 be approval. Rev. Brown moved, second by Mrs. Neal to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2020; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Rev. Brown, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Foxworth and Vice-Chairperson Atkinson).

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Dr. Bethea acknowledged Mr. Ronnie Green, the Sound Specialist for this evening who came to assist staff. Mr. Green was thanked for his help.

Finance Report August 2020: Mr. Lane presented his Finance report. After a brief discussion from Board members, he addressed questions and concerns.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Sturkey presented the Operation's report. He also presented them with a copy of the sports fall return to play outline. See Attached

Property Appraisals: Board members asked that the Centenary Community Center be removed from the appraisal list.

Food Services: Mr. Davis asked about parents coming to pick up meals and are the times for meal pickup. Dr. Bethea stated that it was on the District Website and she would pull it and share with the Board before the end of the meeting.

Operation was asked to check on Mr. Levant Davis concern about a door being down at the old Britton's Neck building near the Saffold Community Center and also Chairperson White's concern about a door that is ajar at the building next to the Centenary Community Center.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant presented the personnel actions to the Board for approval. Rev. Brown questioned whether College students coming into our District will be tested or monitored for COVID -19. Mrs. Grant stated that they will follow the same protocol calls as we have. So we do not request a negative COVID test from our Interims. We follow the same policy and procedure for all employees. Mrs. Grant was asked to check with Francis Marion to see if testing of these students is being done before they leave their campus and entering into these School Districts. Mrs. Grant stated that she could check. Chairperson White asked for a motion to approve the personnel action. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve personnel action as presented per the Superintendent's request; and the Board unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson White, Mrs. Foxworth, Vice-Chairman Atkinson, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen and Rev. Brown).

2nd Reading Approval: Policy GBAA (Sexual Harassment and Retaliation – Staff): Mrs. Grant presented Policy GBAA for 2nd Reading Approval. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Atkinson to give 2nd Reading Approval to Policy GBAA. Chairperson White asked for questions. After a brief discussion and concerns from Board members, Attorney Boykin briefed the Board on the purpose of the policy and the reason for the timeline. He stated that the statement “under extenuating circumstances the timeline could be extended.” Rev. Brown moved to approve the policy as amended for 2nd Reading approval with the additional statement, “under extenuating circumstances the timeline could be extended, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth; the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Chairperson-White). The original motion failed.

Student Services Report / Update: Mrs. Martina Rush presented to the Board Policy JIAA-R (Sexual Harassment-Student) along with Administrative Rule JIAA-R and Exhibit JIAA-E for 2nd Reading Approval. Dr. Bethea stated that the same additional statement added to Policy GBAA would be added to Policy JIAA-R. Rev. Brown moved to give second reading approval as presented with the additional statement “under extenuating circumstances the timeline could be extended, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the vote was unanimous. (Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Chairperson-White).

1st Reading Approval: Policy ADD MODEL/20- Face Covering: Mrs. Rush presented the face covering policy for Board Approval. Members expressed their concerns pertaining to the type of face mask and what grades are expected to wear mask. Rev. Brown asked for clarification of the types of face covering. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved to accept Policy ADD MODEL/20 – Face Covering with the changes as discussed, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the vote was unanimous. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis and Chairperson-White).

Policy JE-R MODEL/20- Student Attendance: Mrs. Rush presented this as information. Board members expressed their concerns about attendance for students and teachers. Mrs. Rush, Dr. Bethea and Mrs. Wimberly addressed the questions and concerns.

Academy for Careers & Technology Report/Updates: Mr. Jameson gave an update on the programs at ACT. After the presentation, Mrs. Foxworth expressed her appreciation for the one

High School student that was now enrolled in the Nursing Program, but still hoping for others to be able to attend. See Attached.

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

Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented student transfer and releases recommendations to the Board for approval. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the transfer request; 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

Review and Action: 2020 Delegate for Legislative Advocacy Conference. Chairperson White asked for a motion to nominate a delegate to attend the Legislative Advocacy Conference and vote in December to represent Marion. Rev. Brown nominated Chairperson White. Chairperson White asked for someone else to be nominated. Mrs. Foxworth nominated herself, seconded by Chairperson White to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously. (Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Chairperson-White).

Chairperson White asked for an alternate to attend in case Mrs. Foxworth couldn't attend. Rev. Brown nominated Chairperson White, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal and Mr. Davis).

Review: Policy BE- Board Meetings: Members discussed ways of the meetings could be open to the public until time for face-to-face contact.

Pupil Attendance to Board Meeting: Chairperson White discussed participation from Guest Ministers and students in the Board meetings.

Policy Section B review and revise: Chairperson White stated that training will be setup to review the Board Policies.

Finance: Chairperson White stated that Budget training will Mr. Lane to help with the terminology will be scheduled.

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:

- September 15, 2020: Marion County School District Teacher & Support Staff Awards Ceremony @5:00 pm – Central Services Office (Front Steps)
- October 15, 2020: SCSBA – Risky Business Seminar (Virtual)
- October 20, 2020: Next Marion County Board of Education Regular Meeting

Board Comments: Chairperson White stated that COVID-19 testing just started in Marion County about two (2) weeks ago.

Meals for Students pickup: Dr. Bethea informed the Board that the school Breakfast was from 7-9 am and lunch is from 10:30 until 1:00 pm.

Executive Session: Chairperson-White asked for a motion to enter executive session for Contractual matters, Personnel and Legal updates. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Atkinson 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. Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal 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.

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Levant Davis moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Atkinson to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson-White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal and Mr. Davis). Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm