

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

### Virtual Zoom Screening

June 16, 2020

**Board Members Present: (Virtual Screening):** Chairperson- Cynthia H. Legette, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Levant Davis, Mrs. Ogleretta White, Mr. Charles E. White and Mrs. Linda Neal, Mrs. Patricia Atkinson

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Call to Order & Notification of Board Meeting:** The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Chairperson-Legette. 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.

**Invocation:** Invocation was given by Mrs. Atkinson.

**Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present:** Chairperson-Legette welcomed the staff and visitors to the June 16, 2020 meeting. Dr. Kandace Bethea, Attorney Charles Boykin, and other District staff participated through virtual screening.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Mrs. O. White moved, second by Vice-Chairperson Davis to approve the agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chair-Davis, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Atkinson approved request through virtual screening).

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. C. White moved, second by Mrs. Atkinson to approve the minutes of May 15, 2020 meeting and the vote was unanimous (Mr. C. White, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown approved request through virtual screening).

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

**Finance Report May 2020:** Mrs. Donna Sullivan presented the finance report by briefing the Board on the financial status of the District at the present time. She stated that our year to date revenue was \$31,856,020.66 and our expenditures to date is 28,894,963.67. Dr. Bethea acknowledged that the Finance Director, Mr. Gary Lane was also on the Zoom call, while giving him the opportunity to make a few comments. The Board thanked Mrs. Sullivan for the finance report.

**Facilities/Operations Report –** Mr. Leon Sturkey presented his operation report to the Board. See attached. He stated that an executive session was also needed.

**Human Resources Report / Updates -** Mrs. Paula Grant presented the COVID-19 (Professional / Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). She stated that it went into effect and will expire on December 31, 2020.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Grant presented the personnel actions for Board approval. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Chairperson Legette, Vice-Chairman Davis and Mr. C. White).

**Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Bethea gave a brief 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. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. C. White to approve the transfer request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mr. C. White, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown approved the request through virtual screening).

**Public Participation:** None

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** Chairperson Legette reminded the Board of the next scheduled meeting on July 21, 2020 and any upcoming events.

**Executive Session:** Chairperson-Legette asked for a motion to enter executive session for Contractual matters, Personnel and Legal updates. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mrs. O. White approved the request through virtual screening).

**Open Session:** Chairperson-Legette asked for a motion to exit executive session and re-enter open session. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. C. White; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White approved the request through virtual screening).

Chairperson-Legette stated that no action was taken in executive session.

**Gym Flooring:** Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White to accept the lowest bid for gym flooring for Marion High School; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. O. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White approved the request through virtual screening).

**Lawn Service:** Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve the lawn maintenance service bid as discussed in executive session; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mrs. O. White approved the request through virtual screening).

**Adjournment:** Chairperson-Legette asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Chairperson-Legette, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal and Vice-Chairperson Davis approved the request through virtual screening).

**Marion County School District**  
**June 2020**  
**Operations Report**

**Marion County School District Return to Play Plan Phase 1**

In conjunction with the guidelines established by the South Carolina High School League, Marion County School District has established phase 1 a return to play plan for student athletes. Marion County School District Athletics will resume activity in a limited capacity in a phased in approach with preference being given to sports that are in he Fall. The following dates are the start dates to be used by Marion County Schools.

- Football, Cross Country, Volleyball, Girl's Tennis, Band: June 22, 2020
- Basketball, Wrestling: July 6, 2020
- Baseball, Softball, Track, Boy's Tennis, Golf, Soccer: July 20, 2020
- Note: All dates are subject to change.

All Workouts are considered Voluntary per SCHSL. Attendance is not mandatory, and athletes cannot receive punitive measures for not failure to attend.

**General guidelines for return of Marion County School District sponsored team sports**

These guidelines are intended for application in non-health care related places of employment. The foundation guidelines for businesses and employers remain the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

1. Self-isolation -- if you are sick, stay home,
2. Practice social distancing of at least six feet distance to the greatest extent possible,
3. Wash hands frequently (20 seconds with soap and water or use of a sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol),
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects (e.g., keyboards, phones) and surfaces (e.g., handrails, workstations, sinks) or remove unnecessary frequently touched surfaces (e.g., trash can lid),
5. Avoid touching of eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands,
6. Strongly consider wearing a cloth face covering when in public (do not use on children under two years old, people with difficulty breathing or people who cannot remove the mask **themselves**)
7. Cover mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and throw used tissues away immediately after use,
8. Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment when possible, or disinfect them before and after use,
9. Minimize the use of soft surfaces like cloth-covered chairs or area rugs that are more difficult to clean or disinfect.
10. Students, coaches, or staff who either:
  - a. Have pre-existing medical conditions that place them at higher risk of infection

b. Those who do not want to risk contracting COVID-19 should refrain from participating in high school sports.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS, COACHES AND STAFF CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES WHILE AWAY FROM SPORTING ACTIVITIES.**

Guidelines include all of those listed above, PLUS:

1. Always maintain a minimum physical distance of six feet between participants.
2. Daily health screening of athletes, coaches, and staff by a healthcare professional or designated fulltime district/school employee.
  - a. Coach or staff designated as the screener for the day shall:
    - Print and sign their name on the Screening Log
    - Fill out ALL information on the Screening Log for each athlete personally.
    - Conduct temperature check as part of the screening and note the student athlete's temperature on the Screening Log.
    - Screening Log is to be turned in Daily to the Athletic Trainer to be kept on file.

1. If Athletic Trainer is not available, the Log is to be placed in their Athletic Training room or in the Athletic Trainer's box in the main office.

b. If an individual answer YES to any of the screen questions, then they cannot participate on that day.

c. If an individual has a temperature recorded to be 100.4 degrees F or higher, the athlete cannot participate on that day

3. Face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth are required for everyone.

a. Athletes

- Must wear a face covering when not actively participating in the sports activity.
- Face covering or masks should be worn in sports where the covering is not inhibitory.
- Face coverings should not be shared. Non-disposable face coverings should be cleaned and disinfected daily.

b. Coaches and Staff

- Must always wear a face covering while on site.

4. Athletes, coaches, and staff should come dressed for participation.

a. No clothing or equipment of any kind may be lent to another person by any other student, coach, or staff member.

b. If a student is not properly clothed or equipped, then the student athlete cannot participate in activity that day.

c. Student must provide for themselves the following to participate in activity

- Proper Shoes
- Proper Clothing attire

- Face covering
- Personal water container (recommended 1 Gallon jug at minimum)

**Do not share personal water container with anybody.**

5. Use of locker rooms and/or offices is prohibited at this time
6. Bathroom access will be limited to every other stall, with no more people allowed inside than the number of stalls in use.
  - a. One bathroom only will be available for use during summer workouts at this time. Coaching staff and Athletic Trainers may decide which one will be used.
  - b. Bathrooms must be cleaned just as much as any other facility or piece of equipment.
7. Alcohol based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol or adequate hand washing facilities will be provided for all participants.
8. Weight rooms, restrooms, meeting rooms and other multi-use facilities that include high touch surfaces should be sanitized frequently during each event.
  - a. Equipment should be cleaned and disinfected in between each user.
  - b. Cleaning of equipment is to be conducted by the Coach leading the individual group.
  - c. Any lifts that require a spotter are not to be performed during phase 1 as spotting, violate distancing requirements.
9. Use of communal water fountains is not recommended.
10. Personal contact should always be avoided. This includes, but is not limited to huddles, high-fives, handshaking, fist-bumping, and chest-bumping.
11. Times for starting and ending workouts should be staggered
  - a. Coaches are responsible for breaking their team into groups to conduct workouts.
  - b. These groups are to not exceed 10 people including staff or coaches.
  - c. These groups once made, cannot be changed or mixed.
    - Athletes in each group must remain together for duration of this phase of return to activity
  - d. Once a group has begun a workout, any athlete arriving late belonging to that group will not be allowed to participate in the activity for the day.
  - e. One group at a time per Facility as defined by SCHSL guidelines.

**Procedure if somebody fails Screening**

- Again, Failure includes a temperature of above 100.4 degrees F or saying yes to any of the screening questions.
  - In either case, the athlete is to be denied activity for the day
- If the athlete answers yes, to any of the screening questions, he/she should:
  - Be denied activity for that day
  - Continue to monitor symptoms and temperature at home
  - If the athlete continues to have symptoms after 72 hours, he/she should not be allowed to return to activity unless a physician note and negative test result are provided.
- If temperature is above 100.4, the athlete is to see the Athletic Trainer immediately to re-check via an oral thermometer.

- If the Athletic Trainer is unavailable, the screener must let the athlete rest inside for 5-10 minutes, separate them from the other participants, and retest the temperature.
- If the second temperature is 100.4 or higher, then the athlete is denied activity for the day.
- If Temperature is 100.4 with oral thermometer or second temperature test,

The athlete must provide a Doctor's note stating the athlete is cleared accompanying a negative COVID-19 test result.

- If the athlete is unable to see a Doctor, then he/she must wait 14 days and be asymptomatic at least 72 hours prior to return to activity. He/she must also pass an oral thermometer check upon return in addition to the standard screening.
- Athletic trainer is to be notified of any student or coach failing the screening.
- Athletic trainer is to maintain documentation of all failed screening.
- Any failed screening must be reported to the appropriate School and District Athletic Director. The individual school athletic director is responsible for notifying the respective principal.
- If an athlete is sick or fails a screening, then all other athletes in his/her workout group will:
  - Be allowed to continue workouts provided they are asymptomatic
  - Continue to monitor their temperature and symptoms both at school and at home
- An entire workout group will be shut down for no less than 14 days if a member of that group tests positive for COVID-19.
- Group members will not be allowed to return until a Physician note and Negative test result is provided after that 14-day period.

### Heat Stress & Acclimatization

With the suspension of normal school activities, student athletes have obviously been limited in their ability to condition and workout. With the temperatures rising in South Carolina it is imperative that coaches ease into conditioning and workout activities to prevent incidents of exertional heat illness, sickle cell, heat syncope, and minimize acute musculoskeletal injuries. It is recommended that coaches prioritize strength and conditioning workouts over skill development upon returning. In addition to:

- Following the Wet Bulb Globe thermometer guidelines
- Having Emergency Action Plans in place for all activities.

### Pre-existing Medical Conditions

Any person that has a pre-existing medical condition that is under medical care by a physician, will be allowed to participate in activity provided they have appropriate equipment on hand. (e.g. inhaler, nebulizer, epi-pen, etc.) However, it is recommended that any person with a pre-existing

### Lunches served during the pandemic

Marion County School District served 79,628 lunches during the pandemic.



# Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

*We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire*

## **General Updates:**

### ▪ **Re-Opening of School:**

One of the main challenges associated with the reopening of schools is having stakeholders (students, parents, and staff) feel safe to enter the doors of our facilities as well as knowing that the highest level of safety protocols are in place. Several weeks ago, we executed a Pandemic Taskforce made up of a diverse group of stakeholders to address the various factors associated with reopening our schools. This team is tasked with addressing issues pertaining to, but not limited to, personal protective equipment use, facilities cleaning, student transitions, classroom set up for social distancing, cafeteria/feeding protocols, social emotional learning as well as distance learning options.

In the upcoming week, the district will be launching surveys to gather additional input from students, staff and parents regarding their experiences during COVID-19 as well as their thoughts and feelings pertaining to the reopening of schools.

At the state level, the AcceleratED Taskforce met on Thursday, June 11, 2020 to present final recommendations regarding the reopening of school for Fall 2020. These recommendations will be provided to the Governor's AccelerateSC Team. The recommendations outlined by the taskforce focused on three broad areas, which I will address in more detail during open session.

- Instruction
- Buildings and Student Services
- Operations

Based on information gathered from the AcceleratEd recommendations and current guidelines our **potential** options to restarting school in Marion County School District are listed below:

- Traditional Attendance with all students reporting to school with safety measures in place.
- Traditional attendance with a Distance Learning/eLearning option in place for a small group with criteria and an approval process in place.
- Hybrid model with a combination of traditional and virtual attendance using a rotating schedule.

Other options for eLearning may become available to non-eLearning districts based on the COVID-19 status or health risk declared in the County. We are excited that our application to become a Readiness Cohort District for the state's eLearning Pilot Program was approved. Being a part of this cohort will give the district direct access to various resources on our path of becoming an eLearning district.

### ▪ **Property Disposal:**

Currently, commercial property in Marion County takes between 1.5 – 2 years to sell. Based on this information, we have requested the attorney to provide guidance on a process to use as we move forward in the selling of property.

### ▪ **Executive Session Requested:**

Legal (Contracts, Bids, Area 7 Property/Deeds) and Personnel

### ▪ **CARES ACT**

The district is finalizing CARES Act requests, with technology devices being the priority for these funds.



## Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

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**Teaching and Learning:** The Teaching and Learning Team has worked with schools to end the year on a positive note. Feedback from staff and parents on the remote learning packets will be used to inform future offerings for students. The T&L Team has supported more than 20 sessions with teachers working in grade level groups to update curriculum documents and to identify student success criteria for each power standard. Additional training for Lead Teachers in how best to support teachers in the STEP process for implementing and monitoring best practices has been held as well. Summer school for high school students needed to recover credit will begin June 15. A summer Academic Recovery Camp for students in grades 1-3 is currently being planned.

**Federal Programs:** The Federal Programs department is working to close out 19-20 budgets in both Title I and IDEA. We are also gathering data to submit to SCDE for a Title I desk audit. In Special Services we are doing end of the year closeouts with all related services personnel as well as the RBHS providers.

**Human Resources:** The Office of Human Resources had a busy month in May as we finalized the selection process to determine the District's 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year, Support Staff of the Year and Emerging Teacher of the Year. We also continued with our year-round recruitment efforts by hosting an additional "Coffee Chat" that was focused on our middle and high schools!

**Student Services: Crisis Response and Social-Emotional Supports**

Several of the district's Crisis Response Team members from various locations participated in the Behavioral Threat Assessment Training provided by the State Department of Education on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Follow up training to schools will be planned and provided as appropriate. Counselors have been invited to participate in a virtual workshop in July regarding Social-Emotional Supports and COVID-19.

**Technology:** We're beginning the summer imaging process at the elementary schools. Also we are replacing several of the computer labs around the district and will be distributing the current lab computers to the classrooms that have older student desktops. Finally the Technology taskforce continues to meet virtually for the purposes of planning a 1:1 device rollout for distribution to grades 6-12 for the 20-21 school year.

*Please see the attached End of Year Communication to staff that was provided to you previously in e-mail.*



## Superintendent's End of Year Update

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

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### Thank You MCSD:

I extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire MCSD family for doing no less than an amazing job this year, and specifically during this closure! Everyone has gone above and beyond the call of duty! We all should be Marion County Proud!

As a result of your dedication and hard work, we have:

- Successfully executed and completed remote learning for all students.
- Held beautiful outdoor ceremonies and graduated 277 seniors.
- Fed 79,628 meals to our children.
- Creatively celebrated students across the district for their many academic accomplishments through parades, drive-by activities, virtual recognitions, etc.
- Provided connectivity for families through Wifi buses.
- Provided counseling tips and made contacts with families to check on social and emotional well-being of our learners.
- Kept our employees safe by adhering to health and safety protocols.
- Recruited and hired a large percentage of our staff for the upcoming year.
- Maintained seamless district operations across schools and departments via virtual platforms/resources.
- Established an appointment to the Readiness Cohort for the state's eLearning Pilot
- Selected a dynamic group of Teachers of the Year and Support Staff of the Year to represent the district. Please look for our yearly TOY video to be released this week!
- Educated, Prepared and Inspired our learners Compassionately! You are EPIC!

Job well done Marion County School District!

### Now...What's Next?:

As we continue to be presented with a lot of uncertainty, we will operate with a sense of urgency as we plan to re-start school. Though we may not know the full scope of the when, the how, or the what our new norm will look like, below are a few general updates:



## Superintendent's EOY Update

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

*We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire*

- We will be launching surveys to a sampling of various stakeholders (students, parents, and staff) to gather additional information about experiences related to the closure. This feedback will help to provide diverse perspectives as we plan and make decisions for the upcoming year.
- We will begin offering virtual summer school experiences for students beginning with high school programs on Monday, June 15. Summer reading camps and academic recovery sessions will take place in July.
- Various Taskforces have been executed to review implications associated with the pandemic in order to make recommendations surrounding the re-opening of schools.
  - *Pandemic Taskforce*: To establish safety protocols, procedures and systems to guide the re-starting of schools.
  - *Instructional Technology Taskforce*: To provide support to the district as we move to becoming a 1:1 technology district and implement a blended instructional model.
  - *CARES Act Team*: To develop a plan and prioritize funds to secure instructional materials, programs, services to better support learners.
  - *Teaching and Learning Team*: To develop curriculum and secure academic resources that support a blended learning and/or hybrid learning model for all students.

### Closing Statement on Social Unrest

Today, as we officially end the most unique school year that I've experienced as an educator and as a leader, I must address the social unrest that currently exists in our country. It is my hope and expectation that as educators and representatives of the district, our behaviors and actions, at all times, will reflect positively upon the organization and more importantly positively in the lenses of our students. Despite our personal views and opinions, our communication verbally and written (including social media) should be done in a manner that shows professionalism, integrity and a level of empathy for peers/colleagues.

It is my hope that we will be bridge builders and that we will soon be in a place of racial reconciliation throughout our nation.

Wishing each of you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Dr. K. Bethea, Superintendent