

**MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571**

**Virtual Zoom Screening**

**May 19, 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. Mrs. Hopper stated that the media was notified of the meeting and a copy of the Agenda was also provided.

**Invocation:** Invocation was given by Rev. Brown.

**Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present:** Chairperson-Legette welcomed the staff and visitors to the May 19, 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. Neal 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:** Rev. Brown moved, second by Mrs. Neal to approve the minutes of April 21, 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).

**Special Recognitions:** Dr. Bethea gave recognition to several students for outstanding accomplishments. Chairperson Legette, along with other board members commended them through virtual screening for their achievements. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic still being an issue, Dr. Bethea stated that their certificates would be mailed.

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

**Curriculum and Instruction Report/Updates 2020-2021 Calendar:** Mrs. Becky Ford presented the selection of pre-approved math options for K-8 to the Board for their review. She stated that the selection was chosen by the District's K-8 Math team from the options presented by the South Carolina Department of Education provided.

**Finance Report April 2020:** Dr. Bethea informed the Board that Mrs. Betsy Duncan was hospitalized and in ICU at the present time. Mrs. Donna Sullivan presented the finance report. She

stated that our year to date revenue was \$27,821,613.44. The interest from Anderson Brothers Bank was not included during the time the report was sent out nor was the tax revenue that was collected. Chairperson Legette asked that an updated finance report be sent to them. Dr. Bethea informed the Board that the new Finance Director, Mr. Gary Lane, would be coming into the office some during the month of June, before he officially begin work on July 1, 2020. The Board thanked Mrs. Sullivan for the finance report.

**Facilities/Operations Report** – Mr. Leon Sturkey informed the Board that his operation’s report needed to be discussed in executive session. Dr. Bethea gave a quick overview of part of her report during this time. She stated that the protocol for the High School graduations would only allow two tickets per graduate. The social distancing of 6 feet apart would also be part of the guidelines that they would be following.

**Human Resources Report / Updates - Mrs. Paula Grant:** Dr. Bethea stated that an executive session was needed for personnel recommendations.

**Superintendent’s Update:** Dr. Bethea gave a brief update of her report to the Board. (See attached report).

**Continuing Resolution:** Dr. Bethea stated that due to the pandemic, the State has not adopted a new budget, so I am requesting that we operate on the present budget beginning July 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year until we receive further notification of a new budget update. Chairperson-Legette asked for a motion to approve Dr. Bethea’s request. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette , Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Atkinson approved the request through virtual screening.

**Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release:** Dr. Bethea presented student transfer and releases recommendations to the Board for approval. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. O. 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).

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** Chairperson Legette reminded the Board of the next scheduled meeting on June 16, 2020.

Dr. Bethea stated that Mullins High School Graduation would be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 @ 10:00 am and Marion High School Graduation would be held on Friday, June 5, 2020 @ 9:00 am.

Dr. Bethea stated that a request was made for a student from the Governor’s School to join in the graduation ceremony. She stated that Dr. Gore was available concerning this matter. An executive session was requested to obtain guidance from a legal perspective.

Chairperson Legette asked whether there were procedures in place for release of Junior and Community Coaches other than Varsity. Dr. Bethea stated that currently the guidelines address Varsity Coaches only.

**Executive Session:** Chairperson-Legette asked for a motion to enter executive session for Contractual matters, Personnel and Legal updates. Re. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal; 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. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson; 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.

Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis to obtain further information for the football field lawn maintenance service bid and place it on the June agenda; and the vote was unanimous (Mr. C. White, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. O. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown and Vice-Chairperson Davis approved the request through virtual screening).

Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the bid from Clegg's Pest Control; 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).

Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White to accept personnel actions per the Superintendent's recommendation; and the vote was unanimous (Mr. C. White, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Chairperson Legette approved the request through virtual screening).

Vice-Chairperson Davis moved, seconded by Mr. C. White to approve the bid from Trane Energy Performance Contract; 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).

Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve the lowest bid for custodial supplies from Coastal Sanitation Supply Incorporate as recommended; and the vote was unanimous (Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Chairperson Legette and Mrs. Atkinson approved the request through virtual screening).

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



## Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

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

### **General Information:**

The entire MCSD Team has done nothing short of an amazing job during this closure! We all should be Marion County Proud! I extend a special thank you to the Board for your leadership, support and confidence.

We were excited to announce official graduation plans. You should have received the detailed information in email and I have also attached a copy for your reference.

SCSBA 2020 Graduate Signs should be arriving soon. These signs are being placed in the yards of school board members across the state. Once received in district, Mrs. Hopper will ensure that each Board member is provided a sign and we are asking that you take an outdoor picture with the sign and email it or text it to me. The pictures will be placed in a collage for public posting.

South Carolina Department of Education & Legislative Updates will be discussed during the Board meeting regarding the following:

- FY 21 Budget Information
  - Continuing Resolutions
- AcceleratED
- CARES Act

**Human Resources:** Although our buildings' doors may be closed, we have been able to successfully continue with our recruitment efforts for the 2020-2021 school year by conducting virtual interview opportunities through Sparkhire and utilizing Zoom and hosting virtual coffee chats to give potential candidates the opportunity to learn why they should "bring their journey to Marion County School District".

**Teaching and Learning:** The final round of Grab and Grow Learning packs have been created and distributed to students. Students in grades 4k-11 have the opportunity to complete work from packets 1-3 until May 29. All work for seniors is due on May 15 to allow for end of the year procedures to prepare for graduation.

To accelerate our curriculum work that typically takes place during the summer months, teachers in core content areas are beginning the standards review and curriculum revision process the week of May 11. Teams of teachers who teach similar subjects and classes are meeting virtually with support from the Teaching and Learning department to strengthen curriculum documents. Blended learning opportunities including virtual and distance learning lessons are being planned as part of the curriculum in the event they are needed in the future.



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**Student Services:** The Discipline Task Force will be making annual updates to the Code of Conduct for the 20-21 school year. Behavioral Threat Assessment Training has been rescheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and all registered district participants will be able to participate virtually from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

**Federal Programs:** Federal Programs is working with SCDE to reconcile Title I transactions for the 19-20 school year. This office is also working with SCDE to develop a plan to address Significant Disproportionality ratios for MCSD.

**Technology:** We're continuing to finalize the computer image for the next school year and plan to begin imaging in the next few weeks. Additionally, a taskforce had been created to recommend a device for distribution to grades 6-12 for the 20-21 school year. This taskforce is meeting virtually each Thursday at noon via Microsoft Teams.

**CONGRATS**  
**CLASS OF**  
**2020**



## Marion County Announces 2020 Graduation Ceremonies Monday, May 11, 2020

The Marion County School District proudly announces graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020. Each of the district's high schools will hold an outdoor, in-person ceremony to honor and celebrate their Graduating Class of 2020.

Mullins High will hold their graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Auctioneer Stadium. Marion High will hold their ceremony on Friday, June 5 at 9:00 a.m. at Fox Field.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all district graduations will adhere to current health and safety guidelines as well as the recommendations provided by the S.C. State Department of Education (SDE). School districts have been given special provisions by the Governor's Office to hold these momentous ceremonies.

The guidelines listed below have been established in an effort to keep our staff, students and family safe and will be strictly enforced:

- All graduates will receive two (2) tickets for guests, as recommended by the SC Department of Education.
- All graduates and attendees must wear masks for stadium entry.
- Social distancing of 6 feet will be used at all times with no physical contact between graduates or attendees.
- Each attendee will be required to sit in pre-marked seating areas that will be 6' apart in the stands.
- Ceremonies are not expected to exceed 75 minutes
- Restrooms will not be available during graduation ceremonies
- Sanitizer stations will be available at the stadiums
- The graduation will be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend
- In the event of inclement weather, the graduations will be held as follows:  
Marion High, Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. and Mullins High, Tuesday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m.

"We, everyone who assisted our graduates along their educational journey, are profoundly proud of them and their accomplishments and we look forward to each of them walking across the stage and receiving their well-deserved South Carolina High School Diploma!" stated Dr. Kandace Bethea, Superintendent.

More detailed information will be provided to graduates and their families in regards to protocols such as arrival times, health checks, masks, traffic flow, dress code, etc. The district also reminds parents and students that plans may change in response to any unforeseen directives from the SDE or the Governor's office.

On behalf of the entire Marion County School District family and the Marion County Board of Education, please accept our most sincere appreciation to our students, parents and community for your patience and understanding during this time of great uncertainty.

Again, congratulations and best wishes to the Graduating Class of 2020.

