

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

November 19, 2019

Board Members Present: Chair- Cynthia H. Legette, Vice-Chair Levant Davis, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mr. Charles E. White, Mrs. Ogleretta White and Mrs. Linda Neal.

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Patricia Atkinson

Call to Order & Notification of Board Meeting: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Board Chair, Cynthia Legette. In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (d) as amended, the local media were notified of the time, date and place of the meeting. Mrs. Dianne Hopper stated that the media was notified of the date, time and place of the meeting and a copy of the Agenda was also provided.

Invocation: Invocation was given by Rev. Cynthia Brown.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Legette welcomed the staff and visitors to the November 19, 2019 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Rev. Cynthia Brown moved, second by Mrs. Ogleretta White to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 6-0. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Charles White moved, second by Mrs. Ogleretta White to approve the minutes from October 15, 2019 meeting. The motion passed 6-0. (Mr. C. White, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Rev. Brown).

Staff / Student Recognitions: Dr. Bethea, along with the Board recognized students and staff during the meeting for their accomplishments. The Board thanked them as they took their Board walk.

EPIC Award: Dr. Bethea, along with the Board awarded two District Staff employees for going above and beyond the call of duty during the meeting. The Board thanked them as they took their Board walk.

2019 Financial Audit Overview: Mr. Finney commended the Finance Office and other Staff for a tremendous job in assisting them with the reports. Mr. Finney briefly discussed the audit report and concluded by stating that there continues to

be significant improvements with the financial statements. Chairperson Legette thanked Mr. Finney for his presentation and the Finance Department for a job well done.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance: Finance Report October 2019: Mrs. Duncan presented the finance report. At this time our revenue is under the expenditures. We are still running as smoothly as possible.

Facilities/Operations Report – Mr. Leon Sturkey presented the Operation report to the Board. See Attached.

1st Reading Approval: Policy EBCB Safety Drills: Mr. Sturkey presented Policy EBCB Safety Drills for Board approval. Rev. Cynthia Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Charles White to give 1st Reading Approval to Policy EBCB Safety Drills. The motion passed 6 – 0. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Neal.

Executive Session: Mr. Sturkey stated that an executive session was needed.

Human Resources Report / Updates - Mrs. Paula Grant: Mrs. Grant presented the personnel actions and addendum to the Board for approval. Mrs. Ogleretta White moved, second by Vice-Chairperson Davis to approve personnel actions / addendums as recommended by Dr. Bethea. The motion passed 6-0. (Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Program Updates: The Directors from the Academy for Careers & Technology, Marion County Adult Education and Success Academy @ Palmetto Education Center gave an overview of their programs and the their goals for the upcoming school year.

Office of Teaching and Learning: Dr. Huggins presented the District's four year plan for Development of a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Bethea presented her monthly updates to the Board from the various Administrative Departments. See Attachment.

Review and Action: Out-of-State Travel: Dr. Bethea presented the following Out- of State travel requests for approval. She stated that it would be an incentive trip for the students and the number of chaperones needed were also listed as required.

Over-Night/ Out-of-State Travel: Palmetto Middle School – Distinguished Gents – NFL Football Game @ Jacksonville, Florida, December 28 – 30, 2019

Over-Night / Out-of-State Travel: Marion High / Mullins High: JAG @ National

Leadership Academy, December 4 - 8, 2019 Washington, DC

Over-night / Out-of-State Travel: Marion High: JAG @ National Leadership Academy, December 3 - 8, 2019 Washington, DC

Over-night / Out-of-State Travel: Mullins High: JAG @ National Leadership Academy, December 3 - 8, 2019 Washington, DC

Mrs. Ogleretta White moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the travel request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 6-0. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. L. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette).

Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release recommendation to the Board for approval. Mrs. Linda Neal moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis to approve the transfer request as presented; and the motion passed 6-0. (Mr. C. White, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown and Chairperson Legette).

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: Chairperson Legette reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings (Legislative Delegation on December 6-8, 2019 @ Charleston Marriott, Charleston, South Carolina).

Executive Session: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to go into executive session for Contractual matter, Personnel and legal updates. Mrs. Ogleretta White moved, seconded by Mr. Charles White to approve; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 6 – 0. (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Vice- Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White and Rev. Brown).

Open Session: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mrs. Linda Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Ogleretta White to come out of executive session back into open session; and the motion passed 6-0. (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis and Mr. C. White).

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

Employee A: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Linda Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Ogleretta White that the Board not hear Employee A; and the motion passed 6 – 0. (Mrs. Neal, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White and Vice-Chairperson Davis).

Adjournment: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Ogleretta

White moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Levant Davis to adjourn; and the motion passed 6 -0 (Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Chairperson Legette).

Adjournment Amended and Back in Executive Session: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to rescind the adjournment and enter into executive session. Mrs. Linda Neal moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis to amend the adjournment and enter back into executive session; and the motion passed 6 -0 (Mrs. C. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis and Mr. O. White).

Open Session: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mrs. Ogleretta White moved, seconded by Mrs. Linda Neal to come out of executive session back into open session; and the motion passed 6-0. (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis and Mr. C. White).

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

Adjournment: Mrs. Ogleretta White moved, seconded by Mrs. Linda Neal to adjourn; and the motion passed 6 -0. (Mrs. O. White, Mr. C. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown and Chairperson Legette).

Marion County Board of Education

November 2019

Operations Report

Marion High School roof repair

Summers Roofing from Alpharetta Georgia began work on the Marion High School roof on November 5th. Lyons and Associates met with Al Blake on November 10th at 10:30 am on site at Marion High School. Upon inspection, it was noted the Summers Roofing had removed the ballast from each of the three sections to be replaced. Lyons and Associates will provide weekly written and verbal updates to the district.

District safety meeting with first responders

The district safety committee met on November 13th at 10:00 at the Central Service Office. The committee is working on the reunification plans for the district. Mr. Blake met with the Marion County Emergency Management Department, and members of the South Carolina Emergency Management Department to fine-tune the district's reunification plans.

Meeting with Sheriff Department SRO'S

November 1, 2019, Sheriff Wallace, Major Crawford and I met with all the SRO'S from the Sheriff Department. I provided each officer a copy of the presentation Mr. Boykin shared with SRO'S two years ago. We stressed the importance of being visible throughout the school day.

Performance based contract RFQ

The RFQ for Performance based contract was published on November 8, and bids will be received on December 6, 2019 at 2:00 pm. The district is seeking a contractor to provide a comprehensive energy services program that includes a complete energy audit, review of designs for installation of energy efficient equipment and systems; monitoring of energy costs; financing for the project; and guarantee that costs be 100% covered by program savings.

Policy EBCB Safety Drills

State law has required policy change for safety drills. The current policy is listed below. The items slated to be changed are highlighted in yellow. The proposed changes are also listed.

Policy EBCB Safety Drills

Issued 6/12

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the conduct of school safety drills.

Fire drills

Schools will conduct fire drills at least once each month without notice. The staff will fully cooperate to carry out this legal requirement and will train students in prompt and orderly evacuation.

Schools will conduct, at minimum, two fire drills each school year, one during each semester. Each drill will be conducted in accordance with guidelines developed by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and the State Fire Marshal.

Active Shooter/Intruder Drills

Schools will conduct, at minimum, two active shooter/intruder drills each school year, one during each semester. Each drill will be conducted in accordance with guidelines developed by the SCDE and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

Tornado drills and other disasters

Severe Weather/Earthquake Drills

The district will develop a plan to provide for the protection of students in the event of any disaster that may threaten the school community. Each school will conduct at least one emergency drill within the first month of school to ensure safety against such disasters.

Schools will conduct, at minimum, two severe weather/earthquake drills each school year, one during each semester. Each drill will be conducted in accordance with guidelines developed by the SCDE.

Adopted 6/19/12; Revised 11/19/19

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended: Section 59-23-210, et. seq. - School building codes, specifications and inspections. Sections 59-63-910 through 59-63-930 - Fire drills.

State Board of Education Regulations: R-43-166- Student and school safety. R-43-181- Building and grounds management - fire prevention.

Marion County School District



Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire

Superintendent's General Information:

- As indicated on the agenda the following presentations have been scheduled for the Board meeting.
 - FY 18 Audit Overview
 - MCSD Programs Accountability Updates
 - Teaching and Learning 4 Year Plans
- As a reminder, MCSD will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving, November 25-29. All schools and offices will be closed for the week.
- Request for Executive Session:
Contractual matter (property), Personnel (appeal) and Legal Matter (personnel)

Congratulations to our own Xavier Legette for his debut "Gamecock" touchdown!

Human Resources: As part of our efforts to continue to recruit and learn how to best support new teachers, we hosted a few of Francis Marion University's student teachers for supper and networking opportunity. We enjoyed learning from them about the challenges they anticipate facing as they enter classrooms along with their suggestions for types of support they feel would be beneficial.

Teaching and Learning: This continues to be the year of the standards. Groups of teachers are meeting with support from the curriculum office to better understand standards and to create assessments and units that are rigorous and meaningful. Principals and Lead Teachers are now combining their meetings to expand their learning time together. Classroom walk-throughs are calibrated to ensure common understanding of observation criteria, and data from classroom visits is used to provide support to individual classroom teachers. By providing teacher and administrator clarity, we strengthen the core of instruction in the classroom.

Special Services

- The Special Services Dept has completed (Nov 8) the first set of quarterly IEP's with success.
- New Medicaid guidelines for progress summaries began on Nov 1.
- SCDE fiscal desk audit for Tier II funds was successfully completed.

Student Services: Anonymous Reporting

At the October district leadership team meeting, administrators were introduced to **Stop It Solutions**, which is a safety program funded by the SCSBIT. **STOPit Solutions** offers anonymous reporting tools that empower students and employees to speak up about inappropriate behavior like bullying, misconduct, and mental health issues where they are most comfortable—their phones. Initial feedback from administrators was very positive and believed this was a useful tool for our district.

Technology: Department is wrapping up the fall inventory and preparing to roll out 200 new student desktops to replace aging devices removed this summer. Additionally we are continuing to close out work orders and are in the planning phases for projects for the next Erate cycle.



Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

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Public Relations: The PR and Special Projects office has been busy supporting the Teacher recruitment/retention process. Marion County was represented at the National Forum to Advance Rural Education Conference where our year round, multi-person teacher recruitment plan was presented. OnBoarding teams were trained by Jill Nyhus from Education Insight Group to help in the process of recruiting and retaining our teachers. A team of leaders attended the Educator Exchange as well as the E3 Advisory Meeting. The 45th day report has been filed with the state department.