

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

October 15, 2019

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

**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 October 15, 2019 meeting.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Mrs. Patricia Atkinson moved, second by Vice-Chairperson Levant Davis to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 7-0. (Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

**Approval of Minutes:** Rev. Cynthia Brown moved, second by Mr. Charles White to approve the minutes from September 17, 2019 meeting. The motion passed 7-0. (Mr. C. White, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Rev. Brown).

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

**Finance: Finance Report September 2019:** Mrs. Duncan presented the finance report. The year to date revenue was \$5,463,433 compared to last year's \$5,589,138 and the year to date expenditures were \$5,890,031 compared to last year's 5,858,122. Our revenue is under the expenditures at this time. Our quarter has just ended and we are having to pay Federal grant funding up front and file claims to get reimbursed. This is our first full month of payroll and our revenue is coming in slowly. We are still running as smoothly as possible.

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

**Marion High School roof repair RFP:** The roofing bid for Marion High School was awarded to Summers Roofing from Alpharetta, Georgia. The consultant expects the project to start by the end of October.

**District safety meeting with first responders:** The Director of EMS Services, Joey Price along with district staff, Law Enforcement Officers from the Mullins Police Department, Marion Police Department, and the Sheriff's Office met with the district safety committee to discuss safety and security goals, reunification. The next meeting will be held November 13, 2019 at 10:00 am.

**District facility committee:** On October 2, 2019 the committee met and looked at the last facilities study that was completed by Goforth Brown and Associates in 2014 and is recommending that a new study be completed.

**Transportation:** Currently, there are 7.5 vacancies (5 in area 1, .5 in area 2, and 2 in area 7) in transportation. Seven perspective drivers are now training and one person is being recommended for hire, and one person needs more training behind the wheel. We are looking at systems that can provide notification to parents when buses are late.

**Gym floor replacements:** The floor installer met October 7<sup>th</sup> to provide training to district employees on providing care to the floors which was included in the bid information.

**Marion County Auction:** The district participated in the vehicle/equipment auction held by Marion County on October 5. All of the items from Marion County Schools were purchased at the auction. The district is looking at having an on-line auction for some items.

**Carolina Thunder Semi-professional basketball team:** The Carolina Thunder, (member of the Semi-Professional East Coast Basketball League) is interested in using one of the Marion County School District gymnasiums for the 2020 season. Latta and Hartsville Recreation Departments were contacted in reference to their relationship with the Carolina Thunder.

**Executive Session Contractual Matters:** Mr. Sturkey stated that he would need an Executive session.

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

**Accountability Update: 2019 Report Cards:** Principals and Assistant Principals from the Primary, Elementary and Middle Schools gave an overview of their report cards. They expressed their strengths and weaknesses and the goals for improving their report cards for the upcoming school year.

**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 Travel:** Academy for Careers & Technology- Entertainment Technology @ Alabama Theatre, October 25-26, 2019 North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

**Out-of-State Travel:** Marion High Junior Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball Teams and Cheerleaders Basketball Games@ Lumberton High School, December 7, 2019 Lumberton, North Carolina

**Out-of-State Travel:** Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball Game @ Lumberton High School, December 7, 2019 Lumberton, North Carolina

**Over-Night Travel:** Marion High School Carolina Basketball Challenge @ Richland North East High, December 20 – 21, 2019 Columbia, South Carolina

Mr. Charles White moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve the travel request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 7-0. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. P. Atkinson, 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 except Johnakin, contingent to available space; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 7-0. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. P. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette).

**Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments:** Chairperson Legette reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting (SCSBA Risky Business on October 16 - 18, 2019 @ Marriott @ Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Members were told to contact Mrs. Hopper if they plan to attend.

**Executive Session:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to go into executive session for Contractual matter, Personnel and legal updates. Rev. Cynthia Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Charles White to approve; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 7 – 0. (Vice- Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown).

**Open Session:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mr. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson to come out of executive session back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7-0. (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. C. White).

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

**Healthcare Partnership:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the request as discussed in executive session. Mr. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal that we not enter a partnership with Healthcare Partner at this time; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 7 – 0. (Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

**Funding Authorization:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal that we authorize the Superintendent to take the necessary steps to secure certain real estate to support the District's security efforts provided the District is able to secure funding from State sources to match local funding; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7 – 0. (Vice- Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown).

**Facility:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. C. White that we authorize the Administration to accept statements of qualification to undertake facilities performance based assessment which will address the properties; and the Board voted Unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7 – 0. (Mrs. Neal, Vice- Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown).

**Personnel Teacher A / Personnel Teacher B / Personnel Teacher C:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White that we submit teacher **A** to the State Department of Education for breach of contract and release teachers **B & C** from their contract

For the 2019 – 20 school year, pending a follow-up of documentation; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7– 0.

(Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

**Personnel Employee D:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Vice-Chairperson Davis, moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal that we accept the recommendation of the administration to terminate the employment of employee **D** effective immediately; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 7 – 0. (Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

**Facilitation Strength:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded Mrs. O. White that we reserve our facilities at each school to support the strength of the culture at each school; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7– 0. (Vice- Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown).

**Legislative Delegates:** Chairperson Legette asked for delegates and alternates for the official voting. The Delegates will be Mr. Charles White and Chairperson Cynthia Legette. The Alternates will be Vice- Chairperson and Rev. Cynthia Brown.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Charles White to adjourn; and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Motion passed 7 -0 (Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Chairperson Legette).

**Adjournment Amended and Back in Open Session:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to rescind the adjournment. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. C. White to amend the adjournment and enter back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this request. Motion passed 7 -0 (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. C. White).

**Personnel Teacher E:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Mr. C. White that we that we submit teacher **E** to the State Department of Education for breach of contract; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7-0 (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Atkinson).

**Adjournment:** Vice-Chairperson Davis moved, seconded by Mr. C. White to adjourn; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. Motion passed 7 -0. (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Chairperson Legette).



## Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

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

### **Superintendent's General Information:**

- The CBSA Ribbon Cutting was a huge success! Students are embracing STEM learning in the general education classroom as well as the STEM lab. We extend a special thank you to the MCBOE for your leadership and support during the Reconfiguration process.
- Yearly One-On-One sessions have been scheduled with Board members. I look forward to this personalized platform to discuss matters pertaining to the governance and operations of the district.
- Superintendent's Request for Executive Session
  - Contractual Matters (Property acquisition, property sale, and contract agreement)
  - Legal Matters (Personnel)
- 2019 State Report Card Ratings will be shared at the meeting.

**Human Resources:** On October 10th we had the pleasure of being allowed to present to the freshman class of education majors at Coastal Carolina University. Throughout the presentation we shared our recruitment videos, opportunities that we have to support teachers new to our district and to the profession and also had a panel discussion from some of our staff who are CCU alumni. The panel discussion highlighted what it is like to work in our classrooms and opportunities to advance within the profession in our District as master teachers, lead teachers, academic coaches and administrators. Our goal was to market our District so that these students in the near future will choose MCSD to do internships / student teaching and ultimately come to work for us.

### **Teaching and Learning:**

- Boeing South Carolina visited Marion County and interacted with students at Creek Bridge STEM, Marion High School, and the Academy for Careers and Technology. They shared information concerning STEM careers and workforce opportunities.
- Interim reports were distributed and conferences held with parents. Interventions are in place for students requiring additional support. The office of Teaching and Learning is supporting teachers with professional development on intervention strategies. Report cards will be issued October 31.
- Curriculum updates are underway to strengthen our documents and to align instruction with assessments.
- On-going coaching and support from the office of Teaching and Learning occurs on a weekly basis to assist teachers with improving their craft.
- Testing and Accountability/Instructional Technology. Teachers and administrators are analyzing and using reports from MAP, Edgenuity, Read 180, and other digital content programs to help inform instruction. School data teams are reviewing 2019 Report Card data to determine areas of improvement and strategies to reach their goals. Students are actively involved in Content Recovery to prevent the need for summer school. Teachers received professional development on designing lessons for Content Recovery using Edgenuity.



## Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

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**Student Services:** October is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month. Schools have received daily announcements that students will read each morning on the news show. Additional literature and resources have been provided to schools, as well as posted on the Student Services district webpage. All staff, students and community members can anonymously report bullying on our district's website using the app *See Something, Say Something*.

**Special Services:** In-district PD on IEP's continuing. SPED lead teacher to conduct school level audits for compliant paperwork. Title I grant is complete at the district level and is being entered into the SCDE grant portal.

**Technology:** The tech department is slowly getting the number of work orders down to a manageable level at each school. All schools have new techs assigned for this school year so they are busy learning their new schools and staff. We are also beginning to look at ERATE projects for the FY20-21 school year in preparation for the March filing window.

**Public Relations:** Many wonderful events are happening in the Marion County School District. Creek Bridge STEM Academy held a wonderful ribbon cutting celebration which was well attended by community members and business partners from across the district. Representatives from Boeing visited Creek Bridge STEM Academy, Marion High School and The Academy for Careers & Technology. Progress Marion held a reception at the Economic Development office for the Boeing Representatives which was catered by our Culinary Arts first year students. The district recorded their 2<sup>nd</sup> radio spot with Rev. Curtis Campbell which will be played at various times throughout the next few weeks.