

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

September 17, 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 September 17, 2019 meeting.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Charles White moved, with a second by Mrs. Linda Neal to approve the minutes from August 20, 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).

Special Presentation: Mr. Jim Eubanks, CEO of Healthcare Partners, Ms. Santina Mayo, Director of Operations for Healthcare Partners, along with Ms. Elana Wells, School-Based Health Manager of MUSC meet with the Board for consideration of partnering with the School District to provide quality and affordable primary and mental health care for the students of Marion County. After members voiced their concerns, the decision was to n and answer session. This item will be placed back on next month's agenda.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance: Finance Report August 2019: Mrs. Duncan presented the finance report. The year to date revenue was \$3,568,658 compared to last year's \$3,495,759 and the year to date expenditures were \$2,750,811 compared to last year's 3,067,284. Our revenue is over the expenditures at this time. Although we are having to spend money for grants now and get reimbursed later, we're still in better shape this year.

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

Marion High School roof repair RFP: On September 13, 2019 @ 1:00 pm, the roofing bid opening was held at the Central Services Office with seventeen vendors present at the mandatory pre bid meeting on August 28th at 10:00 am. Bids could not be submitted if the vendor did not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting. This will be presented in executive session.

District safety meeting with first responders: The district will use standard protocols from the "I Love You Guys" program at their safety committee meeting on September 18th at 10:00 at the Central Service Office. Safety and security goals will be discussed. This program is widely used across the country and the State of South Carolina.

District facility committee: On October 2, 2019, the District Facilities Committee will meet at 4:30 pm to review items to consider in the summer of 2020 and also review the last facilities study that was completed by Goforth Brown and Associates.

RFP for summer painting: The school painting projects have each been completed along with all punch list items before school opened for the students.

Hurricane Dorian: On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, maintenance and grounds employees prepared for Hurricane Dorian by placing sandbags at school locations with issues of flooding in the past. On Friday, September 6, 2019 returned to check buildings for any damages, which was minimal.

Gym floor replacement: Monday, August 26, 2019, the Director of Operations, the floor installer, and a representative from Brownstone A&E Services met at Palmetto Middle School to look at the gym floor. The vapor barrier, and subfloor were previously installed and now they are installing the floor. A copy of this report will be presented in executive session.

Carolina Thunder Semi-professional basketball team: A member of the Semi-Professional East Coast Basketball League has requested the Marion County School District gymnasium for the 2020 season which begins in March after high school basketball has ended. 4 – 6 home games will be played on Saturdays or Sundays. A copy of their proposal will be presented in executive session.

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.

Office of Teaching and Learning: Ms. Gordon presented the revised 2019-2020 School District Calendar for the two missed days (9/5 -9/6/2019) of school due to Hurricane Dorian for Board approval. Makeup dates have been transitioned along with other dates such as staff development and comp/flex. After reviewing the recommendation from the Superintendent, Mr. Charles White moved, seconded by Mrs. Ogleretta White to approve this recommendation. Motion passed 7-0. (Mrs. L. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. P. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette).

Gifted and Talented: Mrs. Rush gave a brief report on the Gifted and Talented Program stating that the mission of this program is to maximize the potential of gifted and talented students and provide programs and services that match the unique characteristics and needs of the students.

Mrs. Rush also gave a brief discussion on policy changes and updates on Policy J Administrative Rule, JH, and JHE-File.

IHBHA: Alternative Education: Mrs. Rush presented the new guidelines expected to be followed by guidance personnel and administrators to ensure the consistency in addressing the needs of MCSD high school students enrolled in a course/program at ACT where they are placed at SAPEC for

disciplinary reasons. After the presentation, Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. C. White to approve the Superintendent's request. Motion passed 7-0. (Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown and Mr. C. White).

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.

Out-of-State Travel: Marion High School Athletics – Marion High School Basketball Scrimmage at West Columbia High School at Cerra Gordo, North Carolina on November 20, 2019. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis to approve the travel request. 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 to the Board for approval. Mrs. Linda Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White to approve the travel request. 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.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Creek Bridge Stem Academy on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

There will be a workshop at the SCSBA Training Center in Columbia, South Carolina for Beyond the Basics. The next Marion County Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15, 2019 @ 6:00 pm.

Funds awarded from the State Department of Education will hire four (4) more SROs allowing every school to have one.

Mrs. Atkinson presented a letter to excuse herself from any decision made by the Board in reference to the Healthcare Partnership.

Board Recognitions: Rev. Cynthia Brown was appointed to the South Carolina School Board Insurance Trust as a member and Mrs. Ogleretta White was appointed Regional Director for the Pee Dee Area for South Carolina Caucus of Black School Board Members.

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 Mrs. Ogleretta White to approve. Motion passed 7 – 0. (Vice- Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette and Rev. Brown).

Open Session: Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to come out of executive session back into open session. Motion by Rev. Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis to approve this request and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (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.

Personnel Teacher A: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Rev. Brown that we submit teacher A to the State Department of Education for breach of contract for failing to honor her employment agreement with the District; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Personnel Teacher B: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's request as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White that we release teacher B from her employment contract with the District for good cause; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Personnel: Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal that we accept the Administration's recommendation for Personnel presented as discussed for Board approval; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Atkinson).

Adjournment: Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Rev. Cynthia Brown to adjourn; and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. (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: Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White to amend the adjournment and enter back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this request. (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. C. White).

Roofing Bid Contract Approval: Mrs. Ogleretta White moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to accept the bid for the roofing for Marion High School as recommended by Administration; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal, 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. (Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Chairperson Legette).