

REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

A regular meeting of the Marion County Board of Education was held December 18, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. in the Marion School District Conference Room.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Cynthia H. Legette, Chairperson
Mr. Levant Davis, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Atkinson
Mrs. Linda Neal
Mr. Charles E. White
Mrs. Ogleretta White

Board Members Absent: Rev. Cynthia V. Brown due to surgery.

Call to Order: Chairperson Legette called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Invocation was given by Vice-Chairperson Levant Davis.

Notification of Board Meeting: Chairperson Legette verified that 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.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Legette welcomed the staff and visitors to the December 18, 2018 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. C. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting November 20, 2018 and the Special Called meeting November 27, 2018. Mr. C. White moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes (Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mrs. Atkinson).

Special Presentation – Mullins Chamber Jr. Leadership: Dr. Bethea informed the Board that the School District has a partnership with each of the Chambers in the County and that the Mullins Chamber of Commerce held a special project and at this time wanted to give back to the District. This is the first time for the Jr. Leadership where our Leaders are involved in sessions to help build their character skills, work skills and teach them to be leaders. Students from the Mullins Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership Program representing all three High Schools collected books

during the holiday season as a service project with the intent to donate them to the kindergarten classes. They, along with Mrs. Rogers presented their collection to Dr. Bethea at the board meeting. The Board thanked them as they took their board walk.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance: Finance Report October 2018: Mrs. Duncan stated that the finance report had been previously sent in your packet. We are waiting on tax money during this time of year. Dr. Bethea stated that we want to thank our Finance Department for working so diligently. There was a question concerning the audit getting to the State Department on time. Mrs. Duncan stated that the audit get there before the due date. Everything is running smoothly. The Board thanked the Finance Committee for the report.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Sturkey gave a brief review of the Facilities / Operations report. During Mr. Sturkey's report on the Creek Bridge Track, he stated that bids will be received until January 15 at 10.00 a.m. Three companies have expressed interest in bidding on this project.

Mr. Sturkey stated that once the bids for the generators are received and the district will go ahead and purchase and buy the generators eliminating a third party to increase the cost. Chairperson Legette questioned whether the generators can be used not only in time of power outages and storms to save the food, but can be used at the shelters. Mr. Sturkey stated that the generators would not t be able to light up the entire building and this something we need to discuss with County Administration. Dr. Bethea agreed and said that should not be isolation on just us. We are offering facilities for the County. Normally, when the Red Cross comes in, they have some level or ability to get generators. Chairperson Legette recommended that they start a discussion about this in case this happens again. Mrs. O. White added that she agreed with Dr. Bethea about the generators and that there are some FEMA Grants that the County can take leave on. She didn't know if the time had run out, but she knew in the past this has been done. Generators have been awarded for other buildings. Chairperson Legette thank Mrs. White for the information. See Attached.

Human Resources Report / Updates - Mrs. Paula Grant: Mrs. Grant presented the personnel report to the Board for approval. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve Dr. Bethea's recommendation as presented by Mrs. Grant. Motion made by Mrs. Atkinson, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis to approve personnel as presented; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Neal, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, 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 Over-night travel requests for approval. She stated that field trips are a positive incentive for students and the number of chaperones needed were also listed as required.

- a. **Over-night Travel:** Marion High School BETA Club, SC State BETA Convention @ Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – February 8 - 10,

The Board reviewed the request for travel. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve. Motion by Mrs. O. White, seconded by Ms. Neal to approve the Over -night travel request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mr. C. White, Mrs. O. White and Chairperson Legette).

Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea stated that the student transfer and release was presented to the Board as information and did not need Board approval since it was an in-district transfer.

Public Participation:

Nakia Rogers expressed her concerns to the Board in reference to the transition of Britton's Neck Elementary students to Easterling Primary and Marion Intermediate Schools until the end of the school year and how it is affecting their instructional time for Social Studies and Science. She stated that some children were shutting down, while others no longer want to attend school. Our children need stable conditions to focus and learn. Every second and minute counts when you are measuring the time that is given to teach our BNE students with this move. We only want what is best for our BNE students by receiving the resources that is needed to strive and housed closer to home then it would benefit them tremendously. Chairperson Legette thanked Ms. Rogers for her presentation.

Teresa Hemingway expressed her concerns in reference to the BNE students being forced into a transition that is non beneficial to the instruction of their education, causing dis-function on many levels. She stated that parents have not been informed on how much it would cost to deviate the issues at BNE nor given a timeline toward the completion of the restoration efforts. She also expressed her concerns about the insufficient instruction that is being considered acceptable for BNE students and the twenty miles travel not being a major concern for the people who have been elected. We are here to exercise all measures necessary for the betterment of Marion County Schools. Chairperson Legette thanked Ms. Hemingway for her presentation.

Roberta Hemingway registered for public participation but was not present.

Laura Holden expressed her concerns about the transition of BNE students from their home school to Marion, and the parents being left with a lot of unanswered questions. She presented questions concerning the shutdown of BNE for more than two (2) months, what were the findings of the air quality test that was administered at BNE, were there ever a clean quality air test performed and if so can we have the results. Concerned parents was told this transition would be temporary and is now turning out to be not so temporary and I fear that with time my concerns will only grow. Ms. Holden finalized her presentation by asking the question concerning plans or intentions of fixing BNE. You hold our children's educational future in your hands and as a concerned parent. Chairperson Legette thanked Ms. Holden for her presentation.

Dates to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders Dates to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders: Chairperson Legette reminded the Board of the upcoming events, meetings and asked for any comments from Board members.

Vice-Chairperson Davis asked Superintendent Bethea for a breakdown of the Title I money received for the District per school and per year. Dr. Bethea stated that Title I is based on our enrollment. Dr. Bethea stated that we are a full Title I District because we are low

poverty throughout Marion County and that is how Title I money is allocated. Dr. Bethea informed Vice-Chairperson Davis that she would get the information for his request.

Mrs. Atkinson inquired about the impact of MUSC on the District due to the sale of the hospital. Dr. Bethea stated that she felt that there would be an impact. Dr. Bethea stated that she was excited about the services, but economically it is going to affect us. Even Florence County is going to be affected a whole lot more than we are as well.

Mrs. Atkinson inquired about the number of teacher vacancies in the District at the present time. Dr. Bethea stated that she would provide her with that information.

Mrs. White inquired about receiving the information pertaining to Board policies that had previously been discussed and whether a date has been set for this discussion. Chairperson Legette stated that the Board members had been instructed to bring back questions on the policies and they would discuss them and then if we need to have a follow-up with Attorney Richardson, we will set up some additional training. Dr. Bethea stated that she would have Mrs. Hopper contact Dr. Richardson to obtain copies of the policies that the Board has already reviewed and this will give you a good starting point and what additional policies that needs to be covered. Chairperson Legette asked the Board members to pull out any additional policies and we can discuss them and then we'll get back with Dr. Richardson for additional training if needed. Hopefully, by next month we can have an answer from Dr. Richardson.

Executive session: There was no executive session needed.

Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that the Board had not given the participants that came before them a response or response time to their comments. Chairperson Legette asked Attorney Keira Brown to assist with Vice-Chairperson Davis request. Chairperson Legette stated that normally in the past the Board receive and review the information. The make sure that we give legal and accurate answers when replying back to them with a letter. This is how we have always done this in the past. This was confirmed with Dr. Bethea. Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that some of them were not aware of the procedures and that is why the statement was made to clear this up for them and when they leave here, they will understand what's coming next.

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

Marion County Board of Education

Facilities/Operations Report

December, 2018

Adult Education Phase II

- D3 Construction from Myrtle Beach have installed the ceiling grids at Adult Education. The Office of School and the Summit (the required outside inspector) have to come and inspect the grids.
- Additional lighting has been added to brighten the corridors with the lower ceilings.

Creek Bridge Track

- The RFP for the Creek Bridge Track has been published. Operations was notified during the week of December 10th that the company that previously provided prices was going out of business. The bid was published on December 12th, on the South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) website. Bids will received on January 15th, at 10:00 am.

Generators for food services

- Food services is working with the engineering firm to secure bids for the generators. Once they have selected the company to provide the generators the district will purchase the generators.

Britton's Neck Elementary

- Maintenance is working with the staff to remove items from the building that staff needs. The district has contacted roofing companies to access the damage to the roof

Winter Athletic Schedules

- Winter athletic schedules are attached for each of the three areas in the district.

2018-2019 Mullins Auctioneers Varsity Basketball Schedule

November 28 Mullins -----Creek Bridge-----Away 6:00 (JV also)

November 30 Mullins -----Wilson-----Home 6:00

December 1 Mullins -----Marion-----Home 6:00 (JV also)

December 4 Mullins -----Wilson-----Away 6:00

December 8 Mullins -----Marion-----Away 6:00 (JV also)

December 11 Mullins-----Carvers Bay-----Home 6:00

December 14 Mullins-----Latta-----Away 6:00

December 18 Mullins-----Hannah Pamplico-----Home 6:00

December 20,21,&22-A &J Tourn.-Marion (Boys)/ Crescom Beachball (Girls)

January 3 Mullins -----Creek Bridge-----Home 6:00 (JV also)

January 4 Mullins -----Andrews-----Away 6:00

Girls Coach –Myron Gerald

Boys Coach Steve Smith

January 8 Mullins -----Johnsonville-----Away 6:00

January 11 Mullins -----Kingstree-----Home 6:00

January 15 Mullins ----- Carvers Bay -----Away 6:00

January 18 Mullins -----East Clarendon-----Home 6:00

January 22 Mullins -----Hannah Pamplico-----Away 6:00

January 25 Mullins -----Latta-----Home 6:00

January 29 Mullins -----Johnsonville-----Home 6:00

February 1 Mullins ----- Kingstree-----Away 6:00

February 4 Mullins -----Andrews-----Home 6:00

February 6 Mullins -----East Clarendon----- Away 6:00

Principal- Michael Stone
Athletic Director – Myron Gerald

School Ph.(843)4643710
Fax (843)464-3730

Girls Coach –Myron Gerald

Boys Coach Steve Smith



Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

We Are Marion County! Educate • Prepare • Inspire

Superintendent's General Information:

- Read to Succeed – Per Mr. Davis' request
I have attached information pertaining to third grade retention.
- Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and most prosperous New Year!

Human Resources: Recruiting and Retention efforts are already in full swing. We hosted An Evening of Interviews on December 6 and also held our first teacher recruitment webinar on December 11. On December 12 we hosted the SC Department of Education's Office of Alternative Certification as they provided an information session on alternatives pathways for becoming a SC licensed teacher.

Curriculum:

- Mathematics instructional materials have been secured and professional development for grades 3-8 teachers to support implementation of the Eureka Math Curriculum began recently and will continue over the next several months.
- Literacy for Learning professional development support for grades 2-5 ELA teachers began recently and will continue over the next several months.

Student Services: Staff from Palmetto Middle School and Creek Bridge High School participated in Process Champions training on Tuesday, December 5th and Wednesday, December 6th to support implementation of Capturing Kids Hearts.

Technology: We are working on a final punch list for issues related to the security camera and access control project. We are still working with the principals to get access control cards issued to staff. We've issued cards to staff from EPS, MIS, BNES, MES, and AEL at this point.

Public Relations: This has been an exciting month in PR & Special Projects. I have been working closely with Human Resources to develop our first webinar open to potential teachers from around the country. This webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11 and will feature the Superintendent, our Teacher of the Year, Emerging Teacher of the year and a Lead teacher. We are also premiering our second professional video that focuses on teacher recruitment. At the end of November the E3 Advisory Team met in Indianapolis, Indiana. Myself and representatives from the other 4 districts involved in the E3 grant met to discuss and share how the grant is being implemented and provide support for each other's challenges.

Special Services: Teachers in the special services department have just completed their 2nd Leveled Literacy Intervention Training. Also, all special services teachers in the department will have Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan training from the state department of education in January. Finally, the Director of Special Services will be visiting all schools in the district during school wide faculty meetings in January to remind general education teachers the importance of following accommodations on the IEP.



DR. KANDACE BETHEA
Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act became law in 2014. The intent of Read to Succeed is to ensure all students have the reading skills necessary to become college and career ready. Read to Succeed includes significant changes regarding the promotion and retention of third grade students.

Section 59-155-160 of Read to Succeed states:

“Beginning with 2017-2018 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of the third grade as indicated by scoring at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment that equates to Not Met 1 on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS).”

Though there are a number of exceptions to this requirement in Read to Succeed, please be assured our school district’s goal is that all students will be proficient readers by the end of third grade. Actions to improve student success include additional instructional time devoted to literacy, small group and individualized instruction, and classroom teachers receiving specialized literacy training and support from school-based literacy coaches.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your school’s principal or the below-listed contacts in our district office. You may also find information about the Read to Succeed Act on the South Carolina Department of Education website at <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/office-of-early-learning-and-literacy/>

Growing Better Together

School

Britton’s Neck Elementary
2320 North Highway 41-A
Marion, SC 29571
843-423-8345

Marion Intermediate School
2320 North Highway 41-A
Marion, SC 29571
843-423-8345

McCormick Elementary
1123 Sandy Bluff Road
Mullins, SC 29574
843-464-3760

District Office

Marion County School District
719 North Main Street
Marion, SC 29571
843-423-1811

Principal

Jessica Merritt

Melonie Dozier

Rebecca Ford

District Contacts

Melonie Gordon
Andrea Jackson