

Minutes of the Marion County Board of Education Meeting was held October 16, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. in the Marion School District Conference Room.

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Cynthia H. Legette, Chairperson
Mr. Levant Davis, Vice Chairperson
Rev. Cynthia V. Brown
Mrs. Patricia Atkinson
Mr. Charles E. White
Mrs. Ogleretta White

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Linda Neal was absent (due to husband's death)

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

Invocation: Invocation was given by Rev. Cynthia V. Brown.

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 October 16, 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. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the regular minutes for September 18, 2018. Mr. White moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve this request. Chairperson Legette stated that in the August minutes, there were some changes that needed to be changed and updated. After talking with Mrs. Hopper, Chairperson Legette confirmed that the changes had been updated. Before voting on the minutes, Chairperson Legette stated that Attorney Boykins wanted to make a statement.

Attorney Boykin began by reflecting back to the minutes where Mrs. Atkinson stated that she did not get the opportunity to vote on the decision to cancel the Board meeting and that she was obligated to her constituents whom she represented. She said that she should have been included in the voting process. He stated that the Board Policy BE contemplates changing the time and place of the regular meeting upon a majority vote of the board. The Board can only vote at a duly called meeting. Accordingly, Policy BE does not address the Board's authority to change the time of the meeting in response to exigent circumstances, such as the severe weather event which affected Marion County last week. Accordingly, the Board Chair's phone call to the Board members was not ¹to take a vote as such would constitute an illegal vote. Rather, the phone call was to notify the Board members of

the cancellation. Because this change was due to exigent circumstances, it was appropriate that the Board Chair in collaboration with the Superintendent change the time and date of the September meeting. This action was not a violation of Board Policy BE. Chairperson Legette asked Attorney Boykins whether the Board minutes of September 25, 2018 needed to be amended or remain as they are. Attorney Boykin stated that minutes remain and we refer back to September 25, 2018 meeting. The minutes for tonight will reflect the correction and refer back to the previous meeting.

Chair Legette stated that there was a motion by Mr. White and a second by Mr. Davis on the floor that needed a vote. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes (Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mrs. Atkinson).

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance: Finance Report September 2018: Dr. Bethea stated that Mr. Russell Causey was absent and Mrs. Betsy Duncan will present the Finance Report. Mrs. Duncan stated that Mr. Causey out due to surgery and is doing well with his progress. Mrs. Betsy Duncan will present the finance report for September in his absence. Mrs. Duncan began by giving an update on Mr. Causey. She stated that Mr. Causey had surgery on October 9, 2018 and is now at HealthSouth, going through therapy and is doing well. We have just completed and submitted our quarterly claims for the Title I Program. These are expenses that are paid out of the General Funds first, then submitted to be reimbursed from Title I. Our year to date revenue was \$5,405,090 and year to date expenditures are \$5,609,868. Things are going well so far. Mr. Steve Uldrick, our Financial Consultant is still working with us and will be with us when the Auditors come on November 5, 2018.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Al Blake gave a brief review of the Facilities / Operations report in Mr. Sturkey's absence. He began by stating that bids will be received on October 30, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. for the Mandatory Pre-Bid walk.

He also reported that the Sheriff's Department has partnered with the District to provide a SRO beginning October 15, 2018 for Marion Intermediate School. The funding will come from the State Department of Education.

All schools will have the Raptor System installed and personnel will be able to check the background of all visitors to determine if visitors are on the sex offender registry.

Mr. Blake discussed the storm damage briefly and stated that everything else in the report was self-explanatory. See Attached.

Dr. Bethea stated that she wished to add a few comments to the Operations Report in regards to Britton's Neck Elementary. She emphasized the importance of communication and stated that each week she provides the Principal with an update on the activity surrounding the facility. She explained that Britton's Neck Elementary is scheduled to have two assessments done in terms of air quality and mold. She explained that one company had already been to the campus for an assessment and mold was present in several areas. Dr. Bethea stressed the sensitivity of this matter, and upon notifying the Board of the results of the assessments, she would speak with the Attorney in regards to the best way to share information on the findings.

As a recap, Dr. Bethea explained that right now Britton's Neck students are being housed at Marion Intermediate and Easterling Primary, which were the only two facilities in the District that could house that number of students without making any major adjustments. She expressed that she feels that one of the challenges for parents has been waiting to know the next steps. She informed the Board that she we will continue to bring them updates as they become available with the goal being to have

a clear direction of next steps, hopefully by the end of November in regards to the cleaning of the building or to determine if we need to look at something more long term.

In closing, she explained the importance of being able to provide definitive answers to eliminate individuals from speculating and communicating inaccurate information - dealing with the real facts. She stated that as information is forthcoming, the district will share as soon as possible.

Chairperson Legette thanked Dr. Bethea for providing them with an update. She also emphasized that the Board was aware of the concerns for Britton's Neck Elementary School and that they have had several conversations with Dr. Bethea in reference to this. She emphasized that as Board members, their first concern is the children and they as Board members could not allow children to go into a facility that is possibly not safe. She stated that the community would be kept abreast.

Dr. Bethea shared one additional comment with the Board in reference to the concerns of the community. She stated that each week she shares an update with Mrs. Merritt, yet feels that it is also important to hear directly from parents. She shared that several parents have been very good about contacting her and she encourages that. She extended an open invitation to parents to host a Living Room Listening Session in October or November. These sessions would present an opportunity for a small group discussion on concerns and/or questions surrounding Britton's Neck.

Rev. Brown stated that she taught at Britton's Neck High School several years ago. While teaching there she was hospitalized for 14 days. She stated that she was teaching in a classroom that had a lot of mold in it, so mold is serious. She also emphasized the seriousness of mold on a person's health.

Vice-Chairperson Davis asked Dr. Bethea for clarification concerning the sessions in the Britton's Neck area with parents. Dr. Bethea stated that she did say in the Britton's Neck area, but it was inclusive for parents throughout the Britton's Neck attendance zone.

Dr. Bethea encouraged parents to host a session. She made reference to Rev. Jones (Bethel AME) as being a point of reference to solicit parent participation.

Chairperson Legette stated that we want to make sure that our children are well and educated in a safe environment.

Human Resources Report / Updates - Mrs. Paula Grant: Mrs. Paula Grant gave a brief update. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the personnel request recommended by Dr. Bethea. Reverend Brown moved, seconded by Mr. C. White to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Legette, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Atkinson).

1st Reading Approval of Revised Policies GCB & GCQC/GCQD: Mrs. Paula Grant stated that the South Carolina School Boards Association has contacted the District with suggestions on wording changes for policies GCB & GCQC/GCQD to bring both of them more in line with the State's statute

of providing teachers until May 10th to give the District notice of their decision to accept or decline their contracts for the following year. Dr. Bethea stated that we are presenting these revised policies for first reading approval. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to give first reading approval to revised policies GCB & GCQC/GCQD recommended by Dr. Bethea. Mr. White moved, seconded by

Mrs. Atkinson to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Legette, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Atkinson).

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

Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea stated that the student transfer and release be discussed in Executive Session.

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

- a. Out-of-State Travel: Mullins High School 2018 National JAG Leadership Academy, Washington, DC – November 13 -18, 2018
- b. Out-of-State Travel: Marion High School 2018 National JAG Leadership Academy, Washington, DC – November 14 -18, 2018
- c. Out-of-County Travel: Creek Bridge High School Basketball Scrimmage @ West Columbus High School, Cerro Gordo, North Carolina – November 15, 2018
- d. Out-of-County Travel: Creek Bridge High School Basketball Scrimmage @ West Columbus High School, Cerro Gordo, North Carolina – November 20, 2018
- e. Out-of-State Travel: Marion High School Senior Class Trip, Atlanta, Georgia – May 2 - 5, 2019.

The Board reviewed the request for travel and acknowledged that an additional chaperone was needed for one of the travel request. Dr. Bethea stated that sometimes the bus drivers are used for chaperones also. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve. Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Out-of-State travel request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Mrs. Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. C. Brown, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette).

Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea asked that this be discussed in executive session.

Public Participation - None

Dates to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders: Chairperson Legette reminded the Board of the upcoming events and meetings. The next regular meeting will be November 20th @ 6:00 p.m. and a Called Meeting will be held on November 27, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. for the Audit Report. The December Christmas dinner will be December 13, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Academy for Careers and Technology. The December's regular meeting will be held on the eighteen @ 6:00 pm.

Chairperson Legette reminded the Board members of the Risky Business Worker's Compensation & Property and Casualty Insurance Trust Seminar in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She stated that she was registered to attend, but at this moment due to unfortunate circumstances she did not see where she would be able to attend. A truck load of supplies for misplaced families and families hurt by the storm would be coming to her church on Thursday morning to be unloaded and she had planned to attend Mrs. Neal's husband funeral on Friday. I would have to drive back and forth and could only

stay a few hours. So I am asking if it is ok with the Board that I just not attend. Mr. White stated that would be fine because we understand that would be too much.

Chairperson Legette informed the Board members of the upcoming South Carolina School Boards Association Legislative Advocacy Conference and Delegate Assembly to be held December 7th through the 9th @ the Charleston Marriott in Charleston, South Carolina. Please let Mrs. Hopper know if you plan to attend. We also need two volunteers to service as official voting delegates for the Legislative Advocacy Conference and Delegate Assembly and two alternates in case the delegates are unable to attend. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Patricia Atkinson and Chairperson Cynthia Legette volunteered as delegates and Mr. C. White and Vice-Chairperson Davis volunteered to be the alternates.

Mrs. Atkinson acknowledged one of the visitors (Edwardo Juaraz) at the meeting who was an exchange student from Argentine.

Chairperson Legette reminded the Board to keep Mrs. Neal and her family in their prayers during the loss of her husband.

Executive Session: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to go into executive session for personnel, contractual matters and legal briefing. Motion by Mrs. O. White, seconded by Mr. C. White to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mrs. Atkinson).

Out of Executive Session: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to come out of executive session back into open session. Motion by Rev. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson to approve this request and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. O. White, Chairperson Legette, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis, Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. C. White).

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

Student Transfer and Release: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the Student transfer release as discussed in executive session. Motion made by Mrs. Atkinson, seconded by Mr. C. White to accept the student transfer request with stipulations as defined by Dr. Bethea; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. C. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mr. C. White).

Student Re-entry Appeal: Motion made by Mrs. O. White, seconded by Mr. Davis to return the student to her base school as outlined by the District's Policy as discussed in Executive Session and recommended by the Superintendent; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation (Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. White, Vice-Chairman Davis and Chairperson Legette).

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