

Minutes of the Marion County Board of Education was held January 16, 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

Rev. Cynthia V. Brown

Mrs. Ritta Hennecy

Mrs. Linda Neal

Mr. Charles E. White

Mrs. Ogleretta White

**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 January 16, 2018 meeting.

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

**Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the agenda, the regular minutes for November 14, 2017 and the Special Called minutes for November 30, 2017. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Mrs. Hennecy to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Legette, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Hennecy, Mr. White, Rev. Cynthia Brown, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. White).

**Special Recognition - SCSBA School Board Appreciation Month:** The Board Members were recognized by the Marion County School District and the South Carolina School Board Association for their services. Dr. Bethea presented them with several gifts from the schools and students.

**Special Recognition - Signing of Ethical Principles:** Dr. Bethea presented the Ethical Principles to the Board for their signature. Chairperson Legette read the principles that pledge to improve public education in our schools and community.

**Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items: Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Bethea presented a brief update on the District. (See Attachment).

**Inclement Weather Make-up Days:** Dr. Bethea stated that due to inclement weather and the effect it left on our roads, the District lost three educational days. We originally planned three make-up days due to emergency/inclement weather. The first one was used on December 20<sup>th</sup> due to the hurricane. The remaining scheduled make up days per the current calendar were February 23<sup>th</sup>, and March 16<sup>th</sup>. We would like to use

Monday, January 22, 2018 (In – service/ Professional Development Day) as a make-up day. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the request from Dr. Bethea. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Legette, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Hennecy, Mr. White, Rev. Cynthia Brown, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. White).

**Student Transfer and Release:** Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release for Board approval. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the recommendation from Dr. Bethea. Vice-Chairperson Davis moved, seconded by Mrs. White to approve Student Transfer and Release request as presented; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Hennecy).

**Finance:** Finance Report November and December 2017: Mr. Russell Causey gave a brief update on the Finance Report for November and December 2017. He stated that the year to date revenue for November 2017 was \$10,291,032 and the year to date expenditures were \$12,057, 649. The amount of revenue under the expenditures are (\$1,766,617). He stated that the year to date revenue for December 2017 was \$12,982,145 and the year to date expenditures were \$14,774,237. The amount of revenue under the expenditures are (\$1,792,092). Mr. Causey stated that the taxes were slowly coming in.

**FY 17 Auditor's Report: Finney, Greene, Horton, LLP:** Dr. Bethea asked that the Audit Report be placed on the agenda for next month. Mr. Finney was unable to be present tonight due to still being under the weather.

**School District Bond Update – Ms. Francenia B. Heizer:** Mrs. Heizer stated that she met with Mr. Russel Causey, Dr. Kandace Bethea, Mrs. Patsy Rogers and Mr. Mike Gallagher to discuss the origin and proper management of funds currently being held by the School District in account 400-000-101-0002-000 and 400-000-110-0000-000. These funds were derived from debt service millage that was levied in years past for payment of the Lease Purchase Agreement. It has now been paid in full and the funds derived from debt service millage levied in the future will be used to make debt service payments on general obligation bonds issued by the School District. Because the funds were derived from debt service millage, they should be held by the County Treasurer. My recommendation is that the School District transfer these amounts (account 101 - \$871,915.70 and account 110 - \$24,059.00) to an account designated by the County Treasurer. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve this Recommendation. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to approve this recommendation; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. O. White and Mrs. Hennecy).

Mrs. Heizer was asked about the track field being incorporated into the Debt Service Bond that was created to pay for Creek Bridge School. She stated that there was no specification of a track field or anything like that was found in their search. She was asked to check with the Architect to see what the makeup was.

**Table Motion:** Mrs. Ogleretta White asked that the motion be tabled for executive session for legal briefing from Attorney Boykin.

**Facilities/Operations Report:** Mr. Sturkey presented the following reports to the Board.

**CrisesGo Inc:** This Company has the ability to make hard copies of emergency plans accessible electronically. Our hard copy plan has been given to the company to move forward to having our plans electronic. The information has been shared with safety teams from each school for their review. Once school teams review, we will submit for a final copy.

**Bus Bulletin:** The District is in the process of offering an online program that notifies parents if there are issues with the student's bus. They will be responsible for providing their contact information to the company. This information will be given to parents so that they will be able to access the program. The transportation department will roll the system out district wide February 1, 2018

**Adult Education Phase II:** The progress at the new Adult Education Center is coming along well. The inspector from the State Department of Education will conduct an on-site inspection above the ceiling on January 10th.

**Meeting with Law Enforcement:** Mr. Sturkey stated that he, along with Mr. Al Blake met with local Police Chiefs and Marion County Sheriff Department to discuss ways to have open lines of communications during emergency situations. We are working on a plan to notify operations as soon as the call has been dispatched.

**Meetings with custodial staffs and building administration:** Mr. Sturkey stated that he, along with Mr. Blake met during the month of December with each school custodial staff and at least one building level administration. During the meetings we discussed a guide for maintaining each building. A copy of the guide was given to each custodian and administrator.

**Training for custodial staff:** We are currently working on a professional development day for school custodians. The date will be finalized once the make-up days for the snow has been determined. A representatives from the supply company will be present to provide guidance on the proper use of each item and also one from Clorox will also be present to provide training on some purchased equipment to help clean the restrooms in our schools.

**Summer Floor maintenance:** During the summer of 2018, we used crews to address stripping and waxing of all of the floors throughout our schools. We will have three crews: (1) A crew to move furniture, (2) A crew that cleans and strips floors, and (3) a crew to waxes the floors. Since this process is being used throughout many school districts in South Carolina, we believe that this will reduce the length of time spent on floors, and also decrease the overall cost to have floors done.

**Facility Committee Report:** We are currently working on a schedule to begin Phase II of the facility committee. The first meeting will be scheduled in early February.

**Columbus Williams Track:** I spoke with Mr. Time Harper, Marion County Administrator. He stated that the county needs to either have a long term lease agreement or have the property deeded to them. They are applying for grant monies, and cannot receive any monies unless the land is owned by the county or it is on a long term lease agreement. I am waiting to receive documentation from Mr. Chuck McClain, the County Attorney.

**Human Resources Report / Updates - Mrs. Paula Grant: National Association of State Directors of Teachers Education and Certification (NASDTEC)**

**Clearinghouse Overview:** Mrs. Paula Grant stated that NASDTEC has maintained an Educator Identification Clearinghouse for nearly 25 years. Agencies use the Clearinghouse to report the names of educators whose certificates or licenses had been denied, revoked, suspended, surrendered or that had other adverse action taken upon it. It facilitated the mobility of certified educators while protecting students from educators who have been found unfit to practice. Public and Local School Districts who join their membership has recently been approved for access to the Clearinghouse. As we begin our hiring for the 2018-2019 school year, we will search the Clearinghouse for all prospective out-of-state applicants for any available information that may require further investigation before making a recommendation to the Board for approval to hire.

**Personnel Action:** Dr. Bethea asked that personnel action be discussed in executive session.

**Public Relations Reports and Updates – Mrs. Deborah Wimberly:** Mrs. Wimberly gave a brief presentation of the new Marion County School District App and how it operates.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Dates to Remember:** Conference / meeting Reminders: Chairperson Legette asked the Board members to contact Mrs. Hopper if they plan to attend.

- (1) January 15, 2018 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday observance – School Closed.
- (2) **January 22, 2018 – The Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet 6:00 PM @ Woodhaven, Marion, South Carolina.** Chairperson Legette asked for attendees to give their name to Mrs. Hopper. (Rev. Brown/ Mrs. Neal / Mrs. O. White / Vice-Chairperson Davis / Mr. C. White / Mrs. Hennechy / Chairperson Legette).
- (3) **January 23, 2018 – Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet 5:30 PM @ Academy For Careers And Technology, Marion, South Carolina.** Chairperson Legette asked for attendees to give their name to Mrs. Hopper. (Rev. Brown/ Mrs. Neal / Vice-Chairperson Davis / Mrs. Hennechy / Chairperson Legette).

- (4) **January 26, 2018 Dine and Learn – Attorney Boykin @ Francis Marion Ervin Dining Hall, Florence, South Carolina @ 6:00 p.m.** Chairperson Legette asked for attendees to give their name to Mrs. Hopper. (Rev. Brown/ Mrs. Neal / Vice- Chairperson Davis / Mrs. Henneycy / Chairperson Legette).
- (5) **February 15 – 17, 2018 SCSBA Annual Convention @ Hilton Head Marriott, Hilton Head, South Carolina.** Chairperson Legette asked for attendees to give their name to Mrs. Hopper. (Rev. Brown/ Vice-Chairperson Davis / Chairperson Legette / Mr. C. White / Mrs. O. White).
- (6) **February 10, 2018 Dr. A.C. Robinson 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - A.C. Robinson Educational Center @ 5:00 p.m.** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve presenting Dr. Robinson with a resolution. Mrs. O. White moved, seconded by Rev. Brown; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown/ Vice-Chairperson Davis / Chairperson Legette / Mr. C. White / Mrs. O. White / Mrs. Henneycy and Mrs. Neal).

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

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

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

Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. White to submit employee A.1.a to the State Department of Education for breach of contract and ask for the action deemed appropriate under the circumstances as discussed in executive session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation (Mrs. Henneycy, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette).

Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mr. White that we authorize the transfer of funds in accounts 101 and 110 to the Marion County Treasurer to be held for the Marion County School District as discussed in executive session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation (Mrs. Henneycy, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairman Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette).

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. Henneycy; and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. (Mrs. Henneycy, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White, Rev. Brown and Chairperson Legette). Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

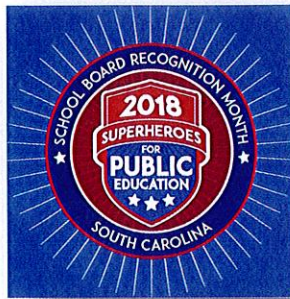


## Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

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

Thank you Marion County Board of Education



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

**Board Policy Review:** Per the expressed interest of the board to begin a policy review process, I have contacted the South Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA) to request assistance in regards to the review and revision of Section B - Board Governance in the policy manual. This spring, district administration will begin review and revision of Section J – Students. Dr. Tiffany Richardson, Esq. will be serving as the liaison for policy revisions.

**Professional Services Request for Proposals:** Per board request, we are initiating the process to seek proposals for the following: attorney, auditor and architect. Enclosed with the report is a sample letter for proposal request for attorney/legal services and a list of members for the Council of Attorneys for S.C. for your reference. The Operations and Finance Offices are in the process of developing a Request for Proposal for auditor services. We are requesting additional legal guidance on the process for architect.

**National Background Checks:** Per board request, we have researched information pertaining to conducting National Background Checks for out of state hires. Paula Grant will provide a brief overview of this information during the board meeting.

**SRO/Administration Workshop:** Leon Sturkey, Operations Director is working with our attorney's office to schedule a joint training session for our SRO and school administrators. This is simply an effort to be proactive in ensuring that proper protocols and procedures are followed.

**MCSD Live:** This Spring the district will begin a 30 minute monthly radio broadcast on WJAY. This will provide us with an opportunity to reach a segment of our community that may not be on social media. This monthly broadcast will allow time for district updates, news, and highlighting programs and services.

**Human Resources:** The Office of Human Resources will host an information session for alternative routes of certification to become a teacher on February 8 at 4:00 PM. The session is open to any district employee and community member interested in becoming a teacher. For these alternative route programs, a minimum of a Bachelors degree is required. We will also host our Teacher Recruitment Fair on Saturday, February 24, 2018 11:00 AM -12:30 PM.

Superintendent's Monthly Update to the Board Cont'd  
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**Public Relations:** We are happy to release the Marion County School District App. A presentation will be given at the Board meeting.

**Technology:** The Technology Department is continuing to work with A3 Communications on the security/surveillance improvements county wide. Pre-wiring stage has been completed at most locations. Mullins High, Marion High, ACT, and the District Office are still do be done. Pre-wiring is expected to be completed in about 3 weeks and the camera installs and configurations will begin at that point. Turn up of the first sites should take place by the middle of February. Additionally, we are imaging the remainder of the 241 Special Ed laptops purchased. Delivery to the schools will take place as soon as the storage lock boxes are delivered and installed in the Special Ed rooms at each location.

**Curriculum:**

- An interest meeting regarding the MCSD Middle College Program is scheduled for January 16, 2018 at Mullins High School (5:30 p.m.).
- Plans are in progress to expand the MCSD Montessori Program through 1st grade at North Mullins Primary School for the 2018-19 school year.
- Teacher and student use of instructional technology continues to increase as a result of support from our district's technology coach.
- MCSD will serve as host site for upcoming SC Department of Education professional development sessions for English Language Arts and Science during the coming months.

**Special Services:** The special services department is in the process of setting up a tracking system for behavioral in class incidents with Review360, a Pearson Educational product. This will assist teachers in developing Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans. The product will go live at the beginning of the second semester.

**Student Services:** As we continue to cultivate a positive culture and climate, Student Services has begun to research the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program for possible implementation in our elementary schools. The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* is a whole-school program that has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying throughout a school setting. It is used at the school, classroom, and individual levels and includes methods to reach out to parents and the community for involvement and support. School administrators, teachers, and other staff are primarily responsible for introducing and implementing the program with the purpose of improving peer relations and making the school a safer and more positive place for students to learn and develop.