

Minutes of the Marion County Board of Education was held May 16, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at 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 Hennecey
Mr. Charles E. White
Mrs. Linda Neal
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 May 17, 2017 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. Motion by Rev. Cynthia Brown, seconded by Mr. Charles White to approve the agenda; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Levant Davis, Mrs. Ritta Hennecey, Mr. Charles White, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Chairperson-Cynthia Legette, Mrs. Linda Neal and Mrs. Ogleretta White).

Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting – April 18, 2017 and the Budget Workshop – April 20, 2017: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Rev. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Neal; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this request. (Mrs. Ogleretta White, Vice-Chairperson Levant Davis, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Ritta Hennecey, Mrs. Linda Neal, Mr. Charles White and Chairperson Cynthia H. Legette).

“SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS” - Student / Staff Recognition: Dr. Bethea, Chairperson Legette and Vice-Chairperson Davis presented awards to outstanding students and staff members for Soil and Water Essay Conservation and academic achievements. Pictures were taken of students, staff, along with the Principals. As they took their walk, they were congratulated by Board members for their outstanding accomplishments.

Special Presentation –Palmetto Project 2022: The Palmetto Project Counseling Group of South Carolina gave a brief update about mission, vision and purpose of their organization. Lives are being changed in the Carolinas by empowering families and individuals to make a lifelong, responsible and meaningful life choices in a comfortable, safe and convenient environment. We are a summer camp, a counseling and after school tutoring program for academically at risk students residing in the Carolinas. Students are referred to the program by teachers, counselors, social workers, families and community members. Some of our programs include transportation to and from the tutoring

sites, a physical activity period, and assistance with homework, reading, math, and basic skills, along with a dinner meal and healthy snack. The Palmetto Project Counseling Group of South Carolina stated that they would need a building to house their program. We are requesting the use of Rains-Centenary School for our "After School Program, Summer Camp and Weekend Activities. After five years, we are looking at Military Boot Camp and also counseling. We do have our 501-C 3. Our Mentors and Counselors are certified. After a briefing from the Board, the members stated that they would review this request. The Board asked Dr. Bethea and Mr. Sturkey to meet with the Palmetto Project 2022 Group and review the needs and cost of operation of the facility and bring the results back to the Board. Chairperson Legette, along with the Board members thanked them for coming and stated that they will be getting back to them. Chairperson Legette stated that we always welcome positive programs for our youth.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Curriculum And instruction – Strategic Planning Update: Dr. Rechel Anderson gave an update on the Ronald Rouse's Law: Instruction in CPR/AED use Awareness in High Schools.

The Comprehensive Health Education Act [§59-32-10(A)] requires each South Carolina district to provide students instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and awareness of the use of automated external defibrillators at least once during the entire four years of grades nine through twelve. School districts are required to begin complying with the provisions of this act no later than the 2017-18 school year.

Marion County School District's 2017-2018 Plan of Implementation

- Instruction will be provided through Physical Education Classes with 9th grade students each year with one day of training provided to students,
- The American Heart Association provided CPR Training Kit in Schools, inclusive of curriculum, will be used to provide training.
- In partnership with Carolinas Hospital System, in Marion County, certified CPR trained staff will provide the training to students (planned class field trip to Carolinas Hospital System – 1 class, per month and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Carolinas Hospital System will work in collaboration to market and promote a 'brand' of collaboration with Carolinas Hospital and Marion County School District (promoting Comprehensive Health Education and Careers in Health Education),
- There is no cost for the training provided by Carolinas Hospital System to district's 9th grade students (banner at high schools promoting partnership).

Next Steps:

- Meet with high school principals and further develop the plan of action at the school level, via P.E. classes,
- Follow-up with Carolinas Hospital System to finalize plan and select dates for training, effective September 2017 thru April 2018.

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

FEMA Document collection: On April 26th representatives from FEMA and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division to discuss reimbursement for Hurricane Matthew. The District will

be reimbursed for non-exempt employees who worked over-time during the storm and also removal of debris cost.

Mullins High School re-roofing: Attorney Davis has received the contract for review and will return it to the district once he has made the changes that was recommended. Once the contract is amended, signed, the contractor can begin work.

Bed Bug Policy: Mr. Sturkey presented a proposed policy to deal with the protocol if bed bugs are found in our schools. This policy was taken from a plan that was implemented by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Lease agreements

The following are lease agreements held by Marion County Schools:

- Pee Dee Community Action Agency (Britton's Neck and Nichols head-start)
- Coker College (ACT Evening Program)
- Marion County (Combined Drug Unit @ Old Marion 1 District Office)

Contracts with Operations Department

The following Companies have contracts with the Operations Department

- McLeod Sports Medicine (Athletic Trainers)
- Palmetto Pest Control
- Simplex (Alarms Central Service Offices, Easterling, MIS, ACT, JMS, MaHS)
- TriTek (Fire alarm at CBHS)
- Fludd's Security (Creek Bridge and Britton's Neck)
- Unifirst (Uniforms for Maintenance and Custodians)
- Control Management Inc. (Temperature Controls in Buildings)
- Smith and Jones Janitorial Supplies
- Toshiba (Copiers and Printers)
- Bridgeway Solutions (ID Cards Systems and equipment)
- Williamson Printing
- Smith Straw Service
- City of Marion (SRO Contracts Marion High School, Johnakin Middle School)
- City Of Mullins (SRO Contracts Mullins High School, Palmetto Middle School, and Success Academy)
- Marion County (SRO Contract Creek Bridge)

Middle School Physicals

Carolinas Hospital Systems in Marion has agreed to do athletic physicals for middle school students for the 2017-2018 school year. The physicals will be at no cost for our students and will be held Friday May 19th. Students from Creek Bridge will go at 1:00 pm, Johnakin 2:00 pm and Palmetto 3:00 pm.

Mr. Sturkey talked about the school pest control and stated that the bed bug information will be given to the schools so that they will know how to handle this problem. The Board inquired about the process for obtaining different contractors and the renewal process. Mr. Sturkey was asked to furnish the Board a list of the contractors and the dates they will be up for renewal.

Mr. Sturkey stated that they would be receiving two new buses on Wednesday.

Finance: Finance Report April 2017: Mr. Russell Causey gave a brief update on the Finance Report for April 2017 by stating that the year to date revenue for April 2017 was \$29,872,213 and the year to date expenditures were \$26,399,199. The amount of revenue over the expenditures are (\$3,473,014). We are at a good financial place, because collections are on target. We maybe short on vehicle taxes and property taxes go all year round.

1st Reading Approval 2017-2018 Proposed Budget: Mr. Russell Causey presented the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget for 1st Reading approval. He stated that the budget report reflects the increases and decreases in revenue and expenditure funds to arrive at a balanced proposed budget for FY 17 - 18. The value of a mil is worth \$76, 395, 62 and base student cost is \$2435.00 per student. The collection rate is 92%. We are in the process of adjusting the hourly rate of the custodian to give them more pay. We do not have to use the Fund Balance and it is a balance budget of **\$36,985,152.31**. After a brief discussion from the Board, Vice-Chairperson Davis asked for a motion to give 1st Reading approval to the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Henneycy to give 1st Reading approval to the balance budget of \$36,985,152.31; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Chairperson Legette, Mrs. Henneycy, Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Mrs. O. White).

Bond Sale Information: Mr. Causey presented a copy of the Bond information that the Board had previously voted on for their review. The contract was drawn up and officially signed by the Chairperson. He stated that hearing would be closing on Wednesday.

Human Resources Personnel Action: Personnel actions were delayed for executive session.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Bethea asked the Board to review the May Calendar of events for the End of the Year activities throughout the district.

We have been awarded a Healthcare foundation Grant to host a Summer Science Camp in June for 4th and 5th grade students. Britton's Neck Elementary is in the process of exploring possibilities of developing a STEM Academy. We are also hoping to receive information regarding the rewarding of the Healthcare Foundation grant to fund our initiative of creating Marion Intermediate School into a Leader In Me based school. The Administrative Team at Mullins High met with Florence Darlington Technical College to further discuss the possibilities of developing an Early College model at the school.

Dr. Bethea stated that due to recent questions / concerns regarding the negative publicity surrounding Marion High School, I have met with the administrative team, the Marion Police Chief, and our attorney to discuss areas of concerns.

Curriculum and Instruction: Vetting of the Instructional Pacing Guides will begin May 16, 2017 with our Primary grades and will continue through May 25, 2017 with our secondary grades. . Select teachers will be invited to work with the Curriculum and Instruction Department to update pacing guides for the 2017-2018 school year. We are pleased to continue partnering with First Steps to implements a new program entitled "Raising a Reader for the 2017 – 2018 school year. This program will support at least five of the 4k classrooms. Book bags with sets of books will be given to the students to take home and read with their parents. First Steps will provide read aloud with specified classes monthly.

State reading funds will be used to provide books for Creek Bridge's school library and also the selection of classroom libraries for identified schools.

Human Resources: This office continues to work with Principals for recruiting and hiring for 2017-2018 and will attend the South Carolina Teacher Expo recruitment on May 19. We are currently working with Softdocs to on-board our new employees to make hiring process more effective. We are also preparing for our End of the Year celebration to be held on June 1, @ 2:00 pm at the CD Joyner Auditorium.

Public Relations & Special Projects: Public Relations is busy responding to recent press investigations and publishing the good stories happening in the District. Our Facebook page reached over 13.2 thousand people with positive happenings within our District.

Student Services: Attendance: On April 26 – April 28, 2017, parents and staff from Marion High, Mullins High, Palmetto Middle, McCormick Elementary, Easterling Primary, North Mullins Primary School and Student Services personnel attended the Southeastern Behavior Conference in Myrtle Beach to learn more about Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports to promote a more positive and productive climate within our schools.

Two administrators, Mr. Darryl Woodberry and Mr. Kelvin Edwards will attend "Capturing Kids Hearts" professional development in Columbia, SC on May 24 -25, 2017. It is designed to show leaders how to create high-achieving centers of learning by strengthening students' connectedness to others through enhancing healthy bonds with their teachers and establishing collaborative agreements of acceptable behavior.

Technology: This office is busy finalizing ERATE applications for FY 17 -18. We are also busy imaging inventory and setting up the 17 new laptops carts (510 laptops) purchased with Proviso 1.88 funds to support online testing.

Dr. Bethea had some concerns about the negative information that was said about what happened at Marion High School with the Board. She stated that everything that was said was not true. The Board talked about it briefly and stated that if there are some concerns, please contact us before you take the wrong information out into the streets, the news and the news media. Chairperson Legette suggested that maybe some can volunteer their time by reading to the children. Instead of criticizing us, come with some positive suggestions.

Review and Action: Out-of-State Travel: Dr. Bethea presented the following Out-of-State travel request for approval. She stated that it would be no cost to the district and the amount of chaperones needed were also listed as required.

- a. OVER – NIGHT TRAVEL: MARION HIGH SCHOOL STATE 2 AA GOLF TOURNAMENT NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA MAY 14 – 16, 2017.
- b. OVER – NIGHT TRAVEL: PALMETTO MIDDLE SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMEN LEADERSHIP RETREAT MYRTLE BEACH STATE PARK MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA JUNE 2 – 4, 2017

c. **OUT-OF –STATE TRAVEL: CREEK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL- JAG EDUCATIONAL DAY CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA MAY 26, 2017.**

The Board reviewed the request for travel briefly and Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve. Motion by Mrs. Linda Neal, seconded by Mrs. Hennecy to approve the Out-of-state travel and Over-Nights. (Chairperson Legette, Mr. Davis, Mrs. O. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. C. White, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Hennecy).

Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release for Board approval with stipulation of 4K transferring into Marion County School District pending space is available. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Charles White to approve Student Transfer and Release request; 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).

Conference / meeting Reminders: Chairperson Legette reminded Board members of upcoming meetings. The Board discussed the Graduation Ceremonies and who would be attending them. Chairperson Legette stated that the Attorney Boykins is scheduling a training for the Board Members on June 15, 2017 at Francis Marion University. Chairperson Legette also discussed preparing for a workshop during first week in August for the discussion of AdvancED. Mrs. Hopper was asked to get with Dr. Bethea about a place to have. Dr. Bethea stated that the SCASA Conference was schedule at the beach the same time the next board meeting. The Board discussed it briefly and it was changed to June 27, 2017. Mr. White had some concerns about the upkeep of the grounds. Dr. Bethea and Mr. Sturkey explained what was the job of Maintenance and what was suppose to be completed by the janitors at the schools. Dr. Bethea stated that they would check into this situation. Chairperson Legette asked that the Dental Insurance be placed on the agenda next month for them to make their decision.

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

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

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

Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the personnel recommendation as presented. Rev. Brown made a motion to approve and that retirees positions be posted and if a qualified candidate is found, they be hired for the position; seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis as discussed in executive session; and the Board voted unanimously to approved the recommendation (Mrs. Hennecy, Mr. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White, Rev. C. Brown and Chairperson Legette).

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