

Minutes of the Marion County Board of Education was held March 21, 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 March 21, 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 Mrs. Neal, seconded by Mrs. Hennecey 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 – February 21, 2017, and Called Meeting – March 1, 2017: Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Mrs. Hennecey, seconded by Rev. Brown 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).

Student Recognition: Dr. Bethea, Chairperson Legette and Vice-Chairperson Davis presented awards to outstanding students and staff members who were great achievers in education and academics. A special recognition went out to the Mullins Girls Basketball Team and the Coaches for winning the State Championship. Pictures were taken of the students, along with the Principals. As they took their Board walk, they were congratulated by Board members for their outstanding accomplishments.

Special Presentation - ChildSmiles Dental Update: Ms. Chandra Parsley stated the program is progressing well. We are excited to report a drastic increase in student participation. McCormick's student participation rate soared from 24% for the 2015-16 school term to nearly a rate of 45% this year. Our biggest delight is the drastic increase in returned consent forms from Mullins High School (17 forms returned last year, 98 forms this year) and Palmetto Middle School (30 forms returned last year, 128 forms this year) students.

We have added a second hygienist and a program coordinator to our staff, Ms. Pamela Owens, Registered Dental Hygienist, a Marion County native joins us with over 15 years of Pediatric Dental experience. With this addition, we are able to serve students in a timely manner two times each school year. Ms. Felicia Burns, a Certified Medical Assistant with a pediatric background, joyfully serves as our program coordinator. Both ladies are Marion County residents and enjoy working with children.

From school career fairs to local parades to free community dental screenings, we are excited to connect with students, their families and our local community. It is with this excitement that we express our interest in serving as the district's dental provider for the 2017-2018 school term. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and for this opportunity. The Board thanked Ms. Parsley for the services that ChildSmiles has provided. Chairperson Legette asked Dr. Bethea to contact the other Dental Services that the District uses and extend the invitation to come before the Board for an update.

Special Presentation: Ms. Fannie Heizer, Attorney from the McNair Law Firm of Columbia presented a bond resolution to the Marion County Board of Education authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$550,000 General Obligation Bond.

Ms. Heizer stated that the existing Debt on Creek Bridge School will be paid off this May. You want to keep the existing milage that you already have in place, for Capital Improvement projects for the school. The taxes will not increase for any Marion County citizens. The bond will be issued in May and paid off in March 2018 with no tax increase continuing every year in the same cycle.

Chairperson Legette stated that this will help with some of the building repairs that are so badly needed at our schools. There were some concerns from the Board about the Bond Resolution, but all felt that this would help with the aged buildings that needed repairs. Ms. Heizer stated that they would put all the material together for the Resolution and get it to the District for signing. She stated that Series 2017, of Marion County School District, South Carolina, authorize the South Carolina Association of Governmental organizations to facilitate the sale of the Bond under it general obligation debt program; prescribing the terms and conditions under which the bond may be issued; authorizing the Superintendent of the School District to determine certain matters relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. Chairperson Legette asked for a motion to accept the Resolution. Motion by Vice-Chairperson Davis, seconded by Mrs. Neal and the Board voted unanimously to accept the Resolution (Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. O. White, Rev. C. V. Brown, Mrs. R. Hennecey, Mrs. L. Neal, Mr. C. White and Chairperson C. Legette).

Technology Updates: Mr. Kevin Owens gave a brief update on Technology. He provided a list of his Technology Staff and the schools they are assigned to assist. All of our schools have some type of current access to technology. During the School year 2016-2017, we have provided 350 teacher laptops, 550 test laptops to schools. Sixty iPads have been provided at Easterling Primary School. Our 2016-2017 Department Initiatives were online testing readiness, managed print services contract and teacher laptops in which we are upgrading and adding computer labs, adding 18 additional laptops carts with Proviso 1.88 funding and upgrading infrastructure switching at Britton's Neck Elementary School and Creek Bridge High School. All certified staff members have been provided with a laptop. Mr. Owens gave a comparison of the work-order snapshot tickets for 2016-2017 and 2015-2016. The total tickets created and closed have a slight increase. We support over 3500 desktops, laptops, tablets, about 500 iPads, over 500 networked printers/copiers, 850 staff user accounts, 850 staff e-mail accounts, 4900 student user/e-mail accounts, PowerSchool, Power Teacher, CSI Smart Fusion, Meals Plus, 675 Classroom /Office telephones, 600 or more wireless access points 70 mobile phones and 175 switches, routers and firewalls. We also support various

educational programs such as Success Maker, Waterford, Plato, Accelerated Reader, Microsoft Office and Ripples Effect.

Mr. Owens stated that the amount requested and received of ERATE funding for MCSD for 2016-2017 was \$138,467. ERATE Funding is a federal program of the Federal Communications Commission, administered by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company. It provides discounted telecommunications, internet access and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries, funded by the Universal Service Fund (USF). E-RATE discounts are based on the number of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program. Schools and libraries in low income urban communities and rural areas qualify for higher discounts. Chairperson Legette thanked Mr. Owens for the updates on Technology. There were some concerns about generating more funds if we don't have enough and the amount of training that the technology receives.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Facilities/Operations: The Operation report was postponed until the April meeting due to Mr. Sturkey's absence. Dr. Bethea stated that several items needed to be discussed in executive session.

Finance: Finance Report February 2017: Mr. Russell Causey gave a brief update on the Finance Report for February 2017 by stating that the year to date revenue for February 2017 was \$23,503,556 and the year to date expenditures were \$19,855,703. The amount of revenue under the expenditures are (\$3,647,853). Mr. Causey stated that they are working on the budget for the upcoming school year. The Finance Department has meet with several Departments on preparing our budget. Mr. Causey presented a budget scheduled outline to the Board for their review. Mr. Causey stated that he needed the Board to schedule a date for the budget workshop. The Board stated that since the Regular meeting would be Tuesday, April 18, 2017, we will schedule the Budget workshop for Monday, April 17, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m.

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

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the events and meetings that will be taking place during the month. She thanked everyone for their support of the AdvancED Accreditation process. We are excited to have our first time systems accreditation stamp of approval and are underway with planning to address areas that were identified as improvement priorities.

Transform MCSD and Planning Ahead: Dr. Bethea stated that during the April board meeting, she will be submitting an Early Learning Center Proposal to the MCBOE. Currently, we have an estimated 187 (4K) students that are served across three locations. This proposal will focus on centralizing our 4K program. As we strive to progress as a district, it is imperative that early learning is at the forefront of our conversations and planning. Also during the April meeting, I will also share information regarding other key initiatives that we are interested in exploring in the very near future.

Public Relations: A Healthcare Foundation mini grant is being submitted to fund a Summer Science Camp. If awarded the mini-grant it will allow for approximately 20 students to participate. We will also pursue other funding options with the goal of offering additional slots for participation.

Human Resources: We have received an update from CERRA on the use of Proviso Rural Recruiting Incentive funds. They have expanded the critical needs subject areas that will be funded for a \$1500.00 salary supplement for 2017-2018. The subject areas now include Secondary Math, English, Social Studies and Science, Middle Level Math, English, Social Studies and Science, Special Education, Career and Technology,

Art, Business and Foreign Language. These funds have also been utilized this year to fund 7 teachers in a Master's degree in Learning Disabilities program in partnership with Francis Marion University who made a 5 year commitment to our District. Teachers who are returning and who do not teach in critical needs subject areas, they will receive a \$750.00 salary supplement through the use of additional Proviso funds. We are also budgeting for the \$1500.00 New Graduate Assistance Stipend that was initiated by the Board to assist in recruiting.

We hosted our District Teacher Recruitment Fair on Saturday, March 4 and we have been able to make 7 job offers to candidates who attended.

Curriculum and Instruction:

- In preparation for our upcoming summative assessments, schools are offering after-school tutoring or additional support throughout the school day.
- Strategic Plan/Reading Plan updates are underway at the school level. A Strategic Plan and Title I meeting will be scheduled to begin the updates of the district level strategic plan/reading plan.
- 2017 Summer Reading Camp will be held at Marion Intermediate. Summer Reading Camp dates are June 5-29, 2017. The summer hours for students will be from 7:45 a.m. – 2:30 a.m. Monday thru Thursday.

Special Services: Laptops for special services teachers have been ordered and will be delivered to teachers on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. The testing window for the alternate assessment has begun and will last until the end of April.

Student Services: On March 14th and 15th, students throughout the district in grades 5 through 8 participated in an Anti-Bullying Assembly. Keith Deltano, the guest speaker, former teacher, youth worker and comedian spoke to students about four types of bullying which are: physical, exclusion, verbal and cyber. The one tool that he shared with students was to simply say stop bullying, seek help from an adult or stick together in the absence of an adult.

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.

OVER-NIGHT TRAVEL: Marion High School JROTC Summer Camp fort Jackson, South Carolina
June 4 -10, 2017.

OUT-OF –STATE TRAVEL: Palmetto middle School Educational Field Trip 7th Graders
Orlando, Florida May 24 – 27, 2017.

OUT-OF –STATE TRAVEL: Palmetto middle School Educational Field Trip 8th Graders
Vienna, Virginia May 24 – 27, 2017.

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

Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release for Board approval. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis 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. Hennechy).

Conference / meeting Reminders: Chairperson Legette reminded Board members of upcoming meetings

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

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

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

Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mrs. White to accept the personnel recommendation as discussed in executive session; and the Board voted 6 for (Mrs. Hennechy, Mr. White, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Mrs. Neal, Mr. C. White and Chairperson Legette) and 1 Nay (Rev. C. Brown).

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