

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
November 14, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Mr. Kevin Dozier, Rev. Cynthia Brown, Ms. Ogleretta White and Mrs. Susan Pridgen.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Atkinson. In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (d) as amended, the local media was notified of the time, date and place of the meeting. Ms. Deciera Gause stated that the media was notified of the meeting and a copy of the agenda was also provided.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Rev. James Leonard. The Board thanked Rev. James Leonard for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the November 14, 2023 Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the November 14, 2023 agenda; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the November 14, 2023 agenda. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Chairperson Atkinson).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for October 17, 2023. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the minutes and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the October 17, 2023 meeting. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson, Ms. White, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch presented the launching of the MCSD scholarship program and the partnership with SOPACKO, Inc. Representatives from SOPACKO, Inc. and Florence Darlington Technical College were given the opportunity to elaborate on the partnership. Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. He also recognized the November MCSD Proud Award Recipient. The Board commended the students for their achievements. Dr. Bethea expressed gratitude and appreciation to the students and staff.

Finance: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the November 2023 financials. This report was presented as information.

Operation/Facilities: Dr. Bunch presented the Operations and Facilities update. The Board asked questions during this time. Dr. Bunch asked for 2nd Reading on Policy DJ: AR DJ-R Procurement Code 2-104 Small Purchases. The Board asked questions during this time. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the 2nd Reading of Policy DJ: AR DJ-R Procurement Code 2-104 Small Purchases. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier; Rev. Brown asked for Article 8 be moved up in the policy. Chairperson Atkinson asked Dr. Bethea to bring recommendations for the moving of Article 8 to the November meeting; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading on

Policy DJ:AR DJ-R Procurement Code 2-104 Small Purchases. Motion carries. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown and Chairperson Atkinson).

Human Resources: Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks presented personnel actions for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the recommendations; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations for personnel actions. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier).

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea asked Dr. Bunch to give an update on PBIS (Positive Behavior, Intervention and Support). Dr. Bunch explained the logistics of PBIS and provided dates for upcoming staff development.

Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in MCSD. She shared information pertaining to the 2023-24 District Strategic and School Renewal Plan Review and Approval, SCReady raw data, the continuity of services stipend and the requested YTD attorney fees. The audit should be completed tentatively on Friday, November 17. A Special Called meeting may be needed. Dr. Bethea continued with updates from each department.

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented the student transfers and releases to the Board for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; and it was approved. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Dozier).

Dr. Bethea presented out of state travel for approval:

- MuHS Spanish Class – Mi Tierra Restaurant – Charlotte, NC – Thursday, December 7, 2023
- MuHS Band – MLK Parade for 2024 – Savannah, GA – Monday, January 15, 2024

Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the request. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. The Board voted. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Pridgen).

Athletic Committee: Vice Chairperson Foxworth motioned to move the Athletic Committee to a called meeting, seconded by Rev. Brown to move the committee to a called meeting. The Board voted. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Dozier).

No Public Participation:

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have.

The Board agreed to change the December meeting to December 12, 2023.

Chairperson Atkinson reviewed and updated the Board of the calendar reminders.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Personnel. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier and Rev. Brown).

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Ms. White to come out of executive session back into

open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Pridgen).

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

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Ms. White to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Pridgen). The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.