

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
October 17, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Mr. Kevin Dozier, Mr. Hill, 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. Cynthia Brown. The Board thanked Rev. Brown for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the October 17, 2023 Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve the October 17, 2023 agenda; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the October 17, 2023 agenda. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Hill and Chairperson Atkinson).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for September 19, 2023. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the minutes and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the September 19, 2023 meeting. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Workshop Meeting for September 29, 2023. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve the minutes and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the September 29, 2023 Special Called Workshop meeting. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized the October MCSD Proud Award Recipient. Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. The Board commended the students for their achievements. Dr. Bethea expressed gratitude and appreciation to the students and staff.

Finance: Mr. Matt Bassetti presented the October 2023 financials. This report was presented as information.

Operation/Facilities: Mr. Jordan asked for 1st Reading on Policy DJ: AR DJ-R Procurement Code 2-104 Small Purchases. He explained that surrounding districts and the state procurement has increased due to the cost of living. The Board asked questions during this time. They are concerned with the significant increases. The Board asked for dates of the last policy update and also when the state increased the procurement. Dr. Bethea explained that the dollar amounts are in line with the

State Department of Education. Mr. Jordan will provide a complete copy of Policy DJ: AR DJ-R Procurement Code 2-104 Small Purchases. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the 1st Reading of Policy DJ: AR DJ-R Procurement Code 2-104 Small Purchases. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Ms. White; and the Board voted 4 Yes (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen). 2 No (Rev. Brown and Vice Chairperson Foxworth). Motion carries. Mr. Jordan gave an Operations and Facilities update to include: Red Brick Building, Surplus Properties, Gym floor repairs and carpet installation at CBSA, New Student Furniture at MaHS, MuHS and ACT, and Athletic Fields.

Human Resources: Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks requested an executive session for the personnel actions. Mrs. Wilbanks also provided the Board with a copy of the SC Recruitment & Retention Task Force Recommendation and the Salary Study (3-Year Plan) Update.

Exceptional Children (Special Services): Dr. Burks is asking for 2nd Reading approval on Policy JLCDA: Use of Epinephrine/Emergency Medications. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept policy JLCDA: Use of Epinephrine/Emergency Medications. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Rev. Brown and the Board voted unanimously to approve Policy JLCDA: Use of Epinephrine/Emergency Medications. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

Instruction: Dr. Tracy Holcombe presented the K-8 Fall 2023 iReady Data and the 2023 District Report Card Ratings. Dr. Holcombe shared the district's action plan for addressing school report card scores and she also share data from the district report. Dr. Holcombe gave an update on the Intersession Camp. The Department held a daycare partnership meeting with the intent of sharing resources and standards to help prepare students for kindergarten. The Board asked questions during this time.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea asked Ms. Melonie Gordon to present ReadyMarion. A new initiative that will allow paid internships and work study programs for interested juniors and seniors. The district is partnering with The Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce and Marion Chamber of Commerce to find jobs and opportunities for our students. There will also be opportunities for students to work in the district. Students can earn \$15.00 per hour. Student will begin with 12 hours of soft skills; resume writing and work ethics. There is an application process. The initiative will begin before second semester.

Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in the schools in MCSD. ESSER III Amendment: she will be submitting an amendment to reallocate funds that were originally focused on potential new construction. If the State approves, some of the focus will be on outdoor learning spaces and athletic facilities. The SDE CTE team was onsite conducting a CTE program review.

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented out of state travel for approval:

- MuHS JAG - Leadership Conference – November 29 – December 3, 2023 – Washington, DC

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

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. Chairperson Atkinson asked for executive session for the Professional Services: Bond Attorney and General Counsel and Finance Options.

The Board agreed that the September 29, 2023 Workshop was a great session.

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 / Legal Briefings / Contractual Matters. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown and Ms. White).

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to come out of executive session back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Pridgen).

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

Personnel: Chairperson Atkinson asked for motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel action and personnel action addendum.

Ms. White made the following motion from the October 17, 2023 Personnel Action:

- I move that employee A.2A on the Personnel Actions and A.2A Personnel Actions Addendum be released from their contractual obligations.

And all other personnel actions on the regular personnel actions and the addendum be approved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Pridgen)..

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Pridgen). The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.