

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
September 19, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Mr. Kevin Dozier, Mr. Hill, 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 Vice Chairperson Foxworth. 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 Pastor Scott Collins. The Board thanked Pastor Collins for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the September 19, 2023 Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the September 19, 2023 agenda; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the September 19, 2023 agenda. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, 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 August 15, 2023. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the minutes and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the August 15, 2023 meeting. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White and Mr. Dozier).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized the August MCSD Proud Award Recipient. North Mullins Primary School was recognized for receiving the MUSC Wellness Award. Chairperson Atkinson was recognized for reaching a new level for the SCSBA Boardmanship Institute. The Board commended the students for their outstanding accomplishments.

Finance: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the September 2023 financials. This report was presented as information. Vice Chairperson Foxworth asked about the salary study and the continuation of increases for all employees. Dr. Bethea explained that the increases will happen over a three year span. Ms. White asked about the line item for surplus properties being added to the monthly report.

Operation/Facilities: Mr. Jordan gave an Operations and Facilities update. He asked for an executive session for contractual matters. He updated the Board on recent projects happening around the district. The Board asked questions during this time.

Human Resources: Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks requested an executive session for the personnel actions. Mrs. Wilbanks also gave a staffing update and a food service staffing update.

Instruction: Dr. Holcombe asked for approval of the 2023-2024 Writing Waiver Request. The Board asked questions during this time. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the request to the Writing Waiver Request. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve the request and the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for the Writing Waiver Request. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White and Mr. Dozier).

Dr. Holcombe presented the plan for students in grades 3-5 during Intersession Week that have been selected to help get them on target for spring testing. iReady will be presented at the October meeting.

Exceptional Children (Special Services): Dr. Burks asked 1st Reading on Policy JLCDA: Use of Epinephrine/Emergency Medications. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion on proposed policy JLCDA: Use of Epinephrine/Emergency Medications. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen and the voted unanimously to approve the request for the proposed Policy JLCDA: Use of Epinephrine/Emergency Medications. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen)

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in the schools in MCSD. Mrs. Crouner gave a brief update on parenting initiatives for the 2023-2024 school year. She noted a Multilingual Meet and Greet, Written Survey in multiple languages and Karaoke in the Park.

Dr. Bethea gave additional updates of the happenings throughout the district (Walk "N" Talk at Amazing Grace Park, iNoVate Smart Lab Unveiling at MIS).

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented Student Transfers and Releases to the Board for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the request. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Pridgen. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Ms. White).

Public Participation: Ms. Victoria Belin brought before the Board concerns for unity and working together towards a common goal for the betterment of our children.

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have. Mr. Hill asked that the Board Athletic Committee be dissolve. The committee would like to serve on the district athletic taskforce moving forward. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to dissolve the Board Athletic Committee. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. The Board voted. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mr. Hill)

Attorney Boykin gave the update for Policy BD: AR BD-R Organization of the Board. No additional action was needed.

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

Chairperson Atkinson asked for delegate for the SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference and Delegate Assembly. Mr. Dozier and Vice Chairperson Foxworth will serve as delegates and Ms. White will serve as the alternate.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Personnel / Legal Briefings / Contractual Matters. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill and Ms. White).

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier 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 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.

Vice Chairperson Foxworth made the following motion from the September 18, 2023 Personnel Action:

- I move that employee A.2A on the Personnel Actions be submitted to the State Board of Education for unprofessional conduct and for the State Board of Education to take appropriate action to either remove or withhold the certificate until the person satisfies their professional requirements.
- I move that employee A.1.A on the Personnel Actions Addendum and A.2.A on the Personnel Actions Addendum II Be released pending approval of submission of documents to support release
- I move that employee A.8.A on Personnel Actions and A.1.A on the Personnel Actions Addendum II be submitted for breach of contract to the state board of education and for a review and if appropriate a hearing and suspension of these educator's certificates in accordance with the law for failing to honor their contract with Marion County School District for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Surplus Properties: Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved that the recommendation for the surplus property, Old Red Building in front of AEL, be given the City of Mullins under the District's Proviso. Seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Ms. White recused herself from voting. Mr. Hill is concerned that it may create more traffic for AEL property. Chairperson Atkinson is concerned that the City of Mullins does not solidify the exact use for the property. The Board voted 2 Yes (Vice Chairperson Foxworth and Mrs. Pridgen); 3 No (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill and Mr. Dozier). The motion did not pass.

Mrs. Pridgen moved to accept the sale of Cedar Grove Property. Seconded by Ms. White. Vice Chairperson Foxworth asked if it is known what will be done with the property. The Board voted unanimously. The motion passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

Mrs. Pridgen moved to accept the sale of Southside Property. Seconded by Ms. White. Vice Chairperson Foxworth and Mr. Hill asked if it is known what will be done with the property. The Board voted. The motion passed. 4 Yes (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen). 2 No (Vice Chairperson Foxworth and Mr. Hill).

Ms. White move to transfer the original Britton's Neck Elementary School on Highway 908 to Marion County. Seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen)..

Chairperson Atkinson asked for the recommendation for board secretary. Dr. Bethea agreed to add it to the October agenda.

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen). The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.