

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
June 13, 2023

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

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the June 13, 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 Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve the June 13, 2023 agenda; and the Board voted unanimously to approve the June 13, 2023 agenda. (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson Atkinson).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for May 16, 2023 and the Special Called Budget Workshop on April 27, 2023. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the minutes. Rev. Brown asked for an amendment to page 3 of the May 16, 2023 minutes...second paragraph, third line from the bottom to read: “**chair or vice chair** and under Landscaping Bids, “**the motion did not pass**” should be added. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to amend the minutes as presented. Mr. Dozier moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth and the vote passed. (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Chairperson Atkinson). Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Regular Meeting for May 16, 2023 and the Special Called Budget Workshop on April 27, 2023. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to accept the amended minutes of the May 16, 2023 meeting and the April 27, 2023 Special Called Budget Workshop minutes and the vote passed. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Chairperson Atkinson and Mr. Dozier).

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

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

Approval of 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget – 2nd Reading – Asking for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget. Mrs. Cooper answered some follow-up questions presented by the Board. Mrs. Cooper also reviewed a few updates to the budget. The Board asked questions during this time. Chairperson Atkinson asked to table the discussion until later during the meeting.

Operation/Facilities: Mr. Jordan gave an Operations and Facilities update for the summer projects. He also gave a brief update on properties throughout the county. He asked for executive session for contractual matters.

Human Resources: Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for the personnel action consideration. Policy GCAC, GDCCL Paid Parental Leave, 1st Reading. The Board asked questions during this time. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the 1st Reading of Policy GCAC, GDCCL Paid Parental Leave. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier; and the Board voted 4 Yes (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Vice Chairperson Foxworth and Mrs. Pridgen). 1 No (Rev. Brown).

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief snapshot of the Year End Review in MSCD. She gave additional updates from each department.

Mr. Michael Stone gave an end of year update for the Academy for Careers and Technology.

Dr. Bethea updated the Board of the district participating in a voluntary initiative...Innovative School Fellowship offered by the State Department.

Dr. Bethea gave an update of the happenings throughout the district.

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. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen and Ms. White). Recuse (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth).

Dr. Bethea asked Mrs. Cooper to return for questions and answers pertaining to the budget. The Board asked questions during this time. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of 2023 - 2024 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Rev. Brown and the vote passed. . (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen and Ms. White). Recuse (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth).

Dr. Bethea explained the clear bag policy for middle schools for the upcoming school year is a school level pilot policy this year.

Public Participation: Mrs. Alice Legette brought before the Board concerns about bullying in the school.

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have. Rev. Brown would like to meet with the finance committee prior to school opening.

Dr. Bethea asked for executive session to discuss legal issues pertaining to bond attorney.

Policy BD:AR BD-R Organization of the Board: Attorney Goodwyn gave a sample of a policy of to remove a board chair. The Board agreed that the wrong policy was brought forth. Rev. Brown explained that the verbiage was written on the paperwork from a previous meeting. The Board will

decide on the disclaimers in Policy BD:AR BD-R and send it to the attorney to refine and he should bring a recommendation to the July meeting.

Vice Chairperson Foxworth asked questions about having an arbitrator in Marion County School District.

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, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier and Ms. White).

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

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

Landscaping Bids: Mrs. Pridgen moved to accept the contracts for Option B that was outlined in the handout presented by Mr. Jordan based on the Landscaping RFP for 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Ms. White and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

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 June 13, 2023 Personnel Action Addendum:

- Employee A.1.a request for release is pending approval based on submission of documents to support release based on Board policy
- Employee A.1.b and A.3.a be released from contract for the 2023-2024 school year
- Employee A.1.c and Employee A.2.a NOT be released from contract for the 2023-2024 school year

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

Chairperson Atkinson made a motion to extend the superintendents contract for one additional year ending in 2026 and to provide a salary increase as discussed in executive session, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen). The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.