

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

**January 17, 2023**

**REVISED COPY**

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

**Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop:** The Board meeting was called to order at 5:34 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 the Rev. Darryl Woodberry. The Board thanked Rev. Woodberry for his presence.

**Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present:** Chairperson Atkinson welcomed to the January 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. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the January 17, 2023 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Dozier).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for December 13, 2022. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting for December 20, 2022. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

**Marion County School District Special Presentations:** Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bunch recognized the December MCSD Superhero Award Recipient. The Board commended the students for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bethea gave special recognition to The Board for SC School Board Recognition Month.

**Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:**

**Finance Report:** Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the financials for the month of December 2022. This report was presented as information. Mrs. Cooper presented an updated Out of District Travel Request for Reimbursement form as information. No executive session requested.

**Academic Update:** Ms. Gordon presented the mid-year data overview for iReady Math. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Ms. Gordon presented the 2023-2024 School Calendar for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the 2023-24

School Calendar. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve the calendar and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Dozier).

**Facilities/Operations Report:** Mr. Sturkey gave a brief Operation's update as outlined in the Briefs and Updates. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time.

Mr. Jordan gave a brief Facilities overview for a 3 year plan.

**Human Resources Report / Updates –** Mrs. Paula Grant presented personnel actions for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this recommendation; and the Board tabled the motion until after executive session. Mrs. Grant provided an update for the Attendance Incentive. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time.

**Superintendent's Report / Update:** Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in the schools in MSCD. She gave additional updates from each department. Dr. Bunch gave a brief update on the Discipline Task Force. Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on upcoming events. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Dr. Bethea requested executive session for personnel action.

### **Review and Action:**

Dr. Bethea presented an out of state / over-night travel for approval:

- ACT – 2023 SC HOSA State Leadership Conference; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).
- MES – Lego Competition; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).

### **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. Rev. Brown expressed concerns and gave suggestions for future Board Policies revisions pertaining to removing the Chair or Vice Chair of the County Board and for meetings between the Chair/Vice-Chair with the Superintendent another Board member and the Board Secretary must be present to record the minutes of such a meeting. (Policy AR BD-R). See attachment. Chairperson Atkinson reminded the Board about upcoming events.

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

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

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

**Personnel:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Mr. moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this recommendation; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Ms. White, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson-Atkinson).

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen, Ms. White and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.