

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
October 18, 2022

Board Members Present: Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Mrs. Ogleretta White (audio), Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen, 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 Pastor Chip Scruggs, Pastor of Revelation Church, Marion, South Carolina. The Board thanked Pastor Scruggs for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed to the October 18, 2022 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 Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to approve the October 18, 2022 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2022. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier and Mrs. Pridgen).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized the October MCSD Superhero Award Recipient. Dr. Bunch made a special recognition to a student for a perfect score on the Spring SCReady Math. The Board commended the student for her outstanding accomplishment.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for September 2022: Mr. Matt Bassetti presented the financials for the month of September. This report was presented as information. Executive session was not requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan presented the Model Safe Schools Policy for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept Model Safe Schools Policy. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to accept the Model Safe Schools Policy and the Board voted unanimously to accept (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier and Mrs. Pridgen). Mr. Jordan asked for executive session pertaining to surplus properties.

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. Mrs. Pridgen 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, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson-Atkinson).

Academic Update / Report: Ms. Melonie Gordon gave an overview of 2022 Report Card. Board concerns and comments were addressed during Ms. Gordon's presentation. Ms. Sweeney gave overview of grades K-2 plan of action. Mr. Eugene Bellamy gave an overview of grades 3-8 plan of action. Ms. Gordon gave an overview of grades 9-12 plan of action.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea recognized all principals for National Principals Appreciation Month. She also emphasized the importance of their attendance for the Academic/Accountability Update and for the Code of Conduct discussion. Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the recent increase in physical altercations in schools throughout the state. Dr. Bethea and MCSD Discipline Task Force has asked for a temporary recommendation to increase the number of suspension days from to 3-5 days to an automatic 10 days suspension. The Board unanimously agreed to the recommendation. Mrs. Rush gave a brief overview of the upcoming Bullying Awareness initiatives happening in the District. Dr. Bethea gave a brief on the happenings in the schools in MSCD. She briefed the Board on upcoming events.

Public Participation: Rev. Tony Paige brought before the Board concerns about the salary for the cafeteria staff.

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have. Dr. Bethea gave a more indebt briefing on the temporary recommendation to increase the suspension as it relates to the MCSD Discipline Task Force. Chairperson Atkinson reminded the Board about upcoming events.

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

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mr. Dozier moved, seconded by Mr. Hill 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, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

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

Surplus Properties: Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved that the Marion County Board of Trustees transfer as surplus property, the Centenary Community Center property and the Spring Branch property to Marion County for public purpose with the understanding that the property revert back to the District should the property be seized or not used for public purpose, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the Board unanimously approved (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier and Mrs. Pridgen).

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. White, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.