

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM

719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571

November 16, 2021

Revised

Board Members Present: Chairperson- Ogleretta White, Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Vice-Chairperson Patricia Atkinson, Mrs. Susan Pridgen, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mr. Levant Davis and Mrs. Linda Neal.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chairperson-White. 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. Mrs. Hopper stated that the media was notified of the meeting and a copy of the agenda was also provided.

Invocation: A Moment of Silence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson-White welcomed the staff to the November 16, 2021 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson White asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the November 16, 2021 agenda; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson-White, Mrs. Neal, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Atkinson)

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson White asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2021, The Roles and Responsibilities Training on October 26, 2021 and the Communication Committee Meeting of November 3, 2021 be approved. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections; and the vote was unanimous. (Chairperson White, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice Chairperson-Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown and Mrs. Neal).

60 Seconds in MCSD and MaHS: Mr. Franklyn McInnis assisted Dr. Daris Gore, Principal of Marion High School as she highlighted various events that had taken place with staff and students.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report for September 2021: Mrs. Sullivan provided the financials for the month of October and gave an update on the tax revenue expectation to offset the negative. After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mrs. Sullivan for the finance report.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Leon Sturkey gave a brief operation's update to the Board and stated that he needed an executive session.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant gave a brief update and stated that an executive session was needed for personnel actions.

Student Services Report Updates: Dr. Mark Bunch gave a brief update on the revised Policy ADD- Face Covering with the additional addendums (religious exemption from student face

covering and application for exemption from student face covering). Dr. Bunch presented it for 2nd Reading Approval. Vice-Chairperson Atkinson moved, seconded by Mrs. Neal to give second reading approval for Revised Policy ADD-Face Covering; and the Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. (Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Foxworth, Chairperson-White and Mr. Davis).

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Bethea presented her Superintendent Updates to the Board. The presentation and discussion included the following: Recent Happenings in MCSD, TIER 3, ESSER Funds, Suggested Incentives and general department updates.

Review and Action: Student Transfer and Release: Dr. Bethea presented the student transfer and release information to the Board as information. No action was needed from the Board for the In-House transfers.

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

Marion County Board of Education Report/ Updates: Chairperson White presented board items to be addressed and gave each member the opportunity to express their comments or concerns.

National School Board Membership: Chairperson White, along with other members briefly discussed the letter that was received from the South Carolina School Board Association in reference to their withdrawal from the National School Board Association. Attorney Boykin was asked for his assistance in this matter. Attorney Boykin recommended writing a letter to NSBA seeking training not membership or write the SCSBA to see whether they can provide the training that you are seeking. After the members discussion, the NSBA was removed from the list.

Policy BE / Board Meetings: Board Members discussed revising Policy BE briefly in reference to having two meetings a month. There was no action taken in reference to changing this policy.

Board Incentive Program: Board members discussed several suggestions to earn incentives and the funding to used.

Chairperson White and Dr. Bethea was interviewed by WPDE in reference to the HTC Broadband.

Communication Administrative Review Committee: The members, Mrs. Linda Neal and Chairperson White held their second meeting on November 3, 2021 at the Central Office at noon. **Mrs. Pridgen was not present.** Mrs. Neal gave a brief overview of their meeting and stated that the December meeting would be postponed until January 2022 **to allow time for a Communication update from Public Relations.**

Legislative Advocacy Program Committee: The members, Mr. Levant Davis, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson and Mrs. Nadine Foxworth stated that they would meet after they return from Legislative Advocacy Conference.

Finance Committee: The members, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen and Mrs. Nadine Foxworth met for their training at the Central Office. The training was well presented and Rev. Brown stated that they all learned something from their meeting.

Dates - to Remember - Conference / Meeting Reminders/ Board Comments: The Board discussed several concerns, made comments and reviewed the dates to remember.

Executive Session: Executive Session: Chairperson White asked for a motion to go into executive session for Legal briefing, Contractual Matters and Personnel. Mrs. Neal moved seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve

(Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Pridgen, Mrs. Foxworth and Chairperson White).

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

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

Vice-Chairperson Atkinson made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the Personnel Actions as presented except for the following: On personnel actions, Employee A.1.a and employee A.2.a, report their breach of contract to the South Carolina State Department of Education and on personnel actions addendum, not approve the request for release for employee A.1.a, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen; and the Board voted 6 for (Mr. Davis, Mrs. Neal, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Chairperson White, Rev. Brown, and Mrs. Pridgen) and 1 nay Mrs. Foxworth.

Adjournment: Chairperson White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Neal moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Mr. Davis, Chairperson White, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson Atkinson, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Neal). The Meeting adjourned @ 7.50 pm.

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