

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, June 22, 2010
6:30 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

Board: Chair Mary Wade, Susan Andrews, Ray Butrum, Butch Campbell, Nancy Duggin, and Dennis Rainier. Absent: Nancy Phillips and Council Liaison Ron Washington.

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Priscilla Van Tries, and Lee Wilkerson.

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, *Daily News Journal* Reporter Mealand Ragland-Hudgins, and others.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Mary Wade called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Dr. Butrum and second by Mrs. Duggin, the agenda was approved as presented by acclamation.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Introduction of Newly Appointed Principals:
Cason Lane Academy—Mr. Lee Wilkerson
Erma Siegel Elementary—Mrs. Emily Spencer
- The late Ruth Bowdoin left a bequest of \$4,172.14 to the Erma Siegel “Klaus-Bowdoin Media Center.”
- Candy Clifford reports that Chik-Fil-A donated coupons for 500 Kids Meals.
- The following Erma Siegel students in Mrs. Little’s fifth grade class were winners in the Middle Tennessee Insurance Professional (MTIP) essay contest with the theme “Throughout history other than Presidents, who has had the most impact/influence on our country and why?”

First Place—Brandi Clower; Second Place—Landon Jordan; Third Place—Liz Kariuki

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

On motion by Mrs. Duggin and second by Mr. Campbell, the following consent agenda items were approved by acclamation:

- A. Minutes of the May 25, 2010 Board Meeting and June 15, 2010 Special Called Board Meeting Vision/Policy Work Session
- B. The Pre-K Advisory Board
- C. The Surety Bond for Gary Anderson in the Amount of \$1,255,500 at a Cost of \$5,053
- D. The Agreement of Understanding with Mid-Cumberland Head Start

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Board Policies—Second Reading (Tab 2)

New: BO 42—Policy Development

On motion by Mrs. Duggin and second by Mr. Rainier, BO 42 was approved as presented by acclamation.

Revised: STU 3—School Admission

On motion by Mr. Rainier and second by Mrs. Duggin, STU 3 was approved as presented by acclamation.

New: STU 56—Defining Student Race and Ethnicity Data

Mrs. Baker asked that in paragraph one, the words “two question” on line three and “the” in the last line be removed. On motion by Mrs. Duggin and second by Mr. Campbell, STU 56 was approved with Mrs. Baker’s recommended changes by acclamation.

- B. Board Policies—First Reading (Tab 3)

New: SS 12—Student Fees and Fines

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Mrs. Baker explained that principals have provided input and are still providing input. It was suggested that the part regarding the definition of what is and what is not a fee be changed to reflect the actual language of the state statute. In the first paragraph after "School fees are not," delete "such as" and add "as set forth on the school supply list which may include but not be limited to." This will clearly state to parents that they are responsible for purchasing supplies listed on the school's supplies list. In the second paragraph under Fines, second sentence, add "computers, band instruments" after equipment. In the third paragraph under Fines, principals asked that the section regarding voluntary work be deleted. They asked that each situation, on a case-by-case basis, be left to the discretion of the principals. Mrs. Baker noted that she shared with principals the Board's desire to treat this as a learning opportunity for students.

Mr. Rainier asked that Dr. Gilbert meet with principals for clarity on this particular part of the policy and develop an administrative directive following that meeting. Dr. Gilbert agreed stating that there is an effort to achieve consensus to assure there is consistency with expectations.

Mrs. Baker shared that the suggestion was made to delete the section stating that the matter might be turned over to a collection agency and to add instead: "Any and all efforts may be taken to collect a debt owed to MCS." It was also suggested that forms be developed to make it easier to notify parents that a debt is owed. It was shared that vandalism and damage to property has not been a big issue; however, the loss or damage of library books or textbooks has been a big issue.

Dr. Andrews moved to approve SS 12 on first reading with the modifications to be brought back to the Board at the next policy review session for further discussion. Mr. Rainier seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

Revised: STU 6—School Day

On motion by Dr. Andrews and second by Mrs. Duggin, STU 6 was approved as presented on first reading by acclamation.

Delete: STU 7—Opening-Closing of School Day

On motion by Dr. Andrews and second by Mr. Campbell, the Board voted to Delete STU 7 on first reading by acclamation.

Revised: STU 11—Administering Medicines to Students

On motion by Dr. Andrews and second by Dr. Butrum, STU 11 was approved on first reading as presented by acclamation.

Mr. Campbell thanked the Board for the several meetings that have been held to review policies.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Jennings and Rebecca Jones Leadership Camp – Gina Graham and Laura Heath

Teachers Gina Graham and Laura Heath stated that twenty-one MCS students recommended by their teachers are attending the Leadership Collaboration Camp funded by The Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation. Mr. Paul Vaughan, Trustee of the Foundation, was instrumental in making this camp a reality. During the camp, the students will recognize characteristics and responsibilities of leaders as well as the roles they play in the community. Leaders of the community who have spoken to the campers thus far include former Representative John Hood, Mayor Tommy Bragg, Senator Bill Ketron, and Director of Schools Dr. Linda Gilbert. Field trips will include tours of the new hospital, MTSU, the water and electric departments, and the Rutherford County Courthouse. The Board was invited to visit the web site of the camp to find a detailed agenda of events taking place over the next two weeks. Board members received invitations to the camp's graduation ceremony to be held on Friday, July 2, 10:00 a.m., at the MCS central office.

B. Camp PRISM—Principal Greg Lyles, Teachers Kelley Kleppinger and Kristy Carman, Dr. Rebecca Calahan—MTSU

Mr. Lyles shared that Camp PRISM (Practices in Science and Math), a math, science, and technology camp, was held for Mitchell-Nelson Elementary students from June 1-11. The camp was held in collaboration with MTSU, Mike Vaught of Vaught Farms, Nissan, Murfreesboro Waste and Water Treatment Plant, and Middle Tennessee Electric Department in which students participated in a variety of hands-on science, math, and technology activities. Dr. Jeremy Winters and his MTSU students engaged the students in a math-a-thon. Dr. Callahan stated that the collaboration between MTSU and MCS students was mutually beneficial in the learning that took place.

C. Update on Teacher Evaluation Summit Meetings/Information—Nancy Duggin

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Mrs. Duggin thanked Dr. Gilbert for the Leadership Academy that she facilitated for MCS teachers and for the learning that took place, especially information shared about the district.

Mrs. Duggin noted that Tennessee is one of two states that received money from Race to the Top. Tennessee established the Tennessee Teacher Evaluation Committee or TEAC comprised of fifteen members, and Scales Elementary fifth-grade teacher Pam East serves on this committee. It has been proposed that 35% of a teacher's evaluation will be based on TVAAS. However, only the fourth through sixth grades in our district have that information so 70% of the system's teachers have no TVAAS data. The committee is trying to determine what can be used for these teachers. In addition, 15% of the evaluation would be based on some other measure of student achievement. The committee is considering a statewide drop-down menu for K-2 teachers to use. One "might" find DIBELS, ThinkLink, Aimsweb as well as others, and these tests must have benchmarks. The other 50% could be classroom observations (different for non-tenured teachers), a drop-down menu could specify other items such as professional development attended and additional responsibilities, accomplishments, and workshops teachers have conducted. The committee is looking at how evaluations will be handled for special areas teachers as well as others who do not fall within the above categories. If anyone has recommendations, they can contact Pam East.

Briefly, the states are to advance reforms around four specific areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most;
- Turning around our lowest achieving schools.

Only pilot sites would implement the new evaluation procedures for this coming school year; Dr. Gilbert stated that our system has applied to be a designated pilot system.

D. Personnel Update (Tab 4)

Mr. Wilkerson shared the following personnel information:

1. Completion of Ninety Days:
Carol Goslowsky Shop Office Assistant
2. Licensed Personnel Retirements and Resignations 2009-10

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Mr. Campbell and other Board members recognized Mr. Wilkerson for his service as Human Resources Director and as the Board's Chief Negotiator.

E. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 5)

Mr. Anderson reported that the system has completed 91.6% of the fiscal year with a net income of approximately \$871,000, which is \$468,000 over this time last year. BEP does not allocate funds in May, so the balance reflects a decrease. Property taxes are up by \$672,000 but sales tax is down \$160,000 for a net gain of \$512,000. Local sales tax collections run two months behind and property tax collections one month behind. Expenditures are at 87.4%, which is basically the same as this time last year.

F. Attendance Report (Tab 6)

The ninth month and final attendance report reflects an enrollment of 6,933 K-6 students and 412 preschool students. The pupil:teacher ratio is 19.0:1 for K-3 and for grades 4-6 is 20.3:1. Attendance is 95.1%. Enrollment increased 59 students over last year, which is 43 students above our projected enrollment growth. Mr. Anderson noted that pre-K special ed has 57 students while the rest of the district totals 77 for all other grades, which may be an indication of what is to come. Dr. Gilbert stated that in terms of special ed, a committee is looking closely at the system's RTI program in an effort to decrease the special ed numbers. Mrs. Duggin asked that they look closely at the drop-down menus to be released in August

In response to Dr. Butrum, Dr. Gilbert explained that there are different criteria for enrollment in preschool depending on the funding sources but noted that employee's children must meet the entrance criteria and are not placed in preschool based on employment in the school system. There is a waiting list. The goal is to serve the four-year-olds first, although there is a concern that some three-year-olds need this program. Dr. Gilbert encouraged all to pay attention to the upcoming election, and Dr. Andrews added that some candidates have advocated eliminating preschools.

G. Annual Agenda (Tab 7)

The annual agenda was presented to the Board. Suggested revisions will be made and a final copy provided to the Board.

Dr. Butrum asked if the month in which the election of board officers takes place should be changed to better coordinate with the opening of schools, etc. Mrs. Wade explained that the election is held in September to allow the Board chair to attend TSBA's New Board Chair training in October before actually taking office in November. Dr. Andrews

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stated that the election should be held when there are not a lot of things going on so September is appropriate.

Mrs. Duggin encouraged MEA to present calendars to the Director before January, perhaps in November or at least by December 1, pointing out that providing a calendar for a two-year period is very beneficial to parents as well as teachers and the community in general. Dr. Andrews noted that MEA's calendar committee works with Rutherford County's so this is a factor in when final calendars are presented to the Board. Mr. Wilkerson stated that the current MEA contract states that the calendar be presented to the Director by February 15, but this could be addressed/suggested in the next negotiation session.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT
To assure academic and personal success
for each child.