

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
POLICY WORK SESSION
Tuesday, July 20, 2010
6:30 p.m.—Central Administration Building

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Cheryl Harris, Michelle Hummel, Priscilla Van Tries, and Ralph Ringstaff.

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, and Principal Emily Spencer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Mary Wade called the special called Board meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m.

II. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

1. SS 12—Student Fees and Fines (Proposed New Policy)

The Attorney General Opinion 03-027 has been listed as a reference for Fees. It was also decided that the second paragraph on page three be changed to read:

The life of the book is considered to be six (6) years. Charges for lost or severely damaged books will be the replacement cost of the book. For normal wear, there will be no charge.

- ##### 2. PER 44—Employee Use of Internet/Electronic Mail (For Discussion) PER 45—Web Pages (For Discussion) STU 37—Student Use of Internet (For Discussion)

Mrs. Baker explained that the student use of the Internet policy is in the parent handbook. There is one acknowledgement page for parents to sign that they have received required

information regarding the Internet, access to Internet safety information, etc. In response to Mrs. Phillips' question, Mrs. Baker stated that an administrative directive could provide information on how a student could report to the school personnel an inappropriate website being accessible at school. Dr. Gilbert added that individual teachers discuss Internet safety procedures with their students, as well as those who are in charge of computer labs.

Mrs. Baker noted that PER 44—Employee Use of the Internet is where the issue of social networking could be addressed. There is a concern regarding FERPA violations and privacy rights. Twitter, Facebook, and blogging can be a quick source for information especially with younger parents, but can also be a concern when it comes to a student's confidentiality rights. Employees should not be using the above at times when they are responsible for their students. A committee could be formed to develop the employee's Internet usage policy. Mrs. Baker noted that she will be attending TSBA's Summer Law Institute and will gather information to share with the Board at a later date. The Intranet is being worked on for the school system. She stressed that the logo could be copyrighted so that it cannot be copied and used for fraudulent purposes.

3. BO 31—Fund Raising (For Discussion)
BO 32—Solicitations (For Discussion)

Mrs. Baker referred to BO 31, and noted that book fairs are not official fund raisers. Gary explained that there are active and passive fund raisers; active being those that involve students and take away instruction time, and passive being those that involve students but not during instruction time. No individual prizes are awarded to a student based on total grand sales. Mrs. Duggin condoned this practice and approved of class prizes. Mrs. Phillips noted that parents grow tired of having to participate in many fund raisers. Mrs. Duggin asked that fund raising during the academic day be limited. In response to Mr. Campbell's question regarding state guidelines, Mr. Anderson replied only that the funds raised must be used for the intent it was raised for. The definition of a fund raiser is anything that generates a profit. PTO fund raisers must run their revenue/funds generated through their own books, not those of the school.

Mrs. Phillips asked that parents be given the opportunity to opt out of a fund raiser if they should choose to do so, and that it be made clear to parents if a portion of the funds will be donated to a charitable cause so that they can specify whether they instead would wish 100% of the funds they raise to go directly to the school. The fund raiser at Scales was used as an example as a portion of their funds are donated to a charity as part of the school's "Step Up and Serve Program." It was decided that a note would be included on the information provided parents regarding fund raisers noting that: *Participation in this or any fund raiser is voluntary. If you would like to donate funds directly to the school,*

make your check payable to your child's school. This should be placed on the fund raising material in a place that will be clearly visible to parents. There are fund raisers, such as yard sales, where profits from sales may not be easily identified were a parent to want 100% of the funds to go directly to the school (when it has been made clear that a portion would be donated to a charity). It was requested that principals be asked to provide input on the fund raising policy.

Mrs. Baker referred to BO 32—Solicitations noting that if you allow one charitable organization in, you may be opening the door for all others. There are some charitable organizations, such as United Way, that have been approved by City Council because they are in essence a “community chest.” Dr. Gilbert stated that she will also ask principals for input on the solicitations policy.

4. STU 6—School Day (Proposed Revision)
STU 7—Opening-Closing of School Day (Combine with STU 6)
STU 11—Administering Medicines to Students (Proposed Revision)

No further revisions were recommended for STU 6, STU 7, and STU 11.

5. FM 15—Administrative Procedure for Title I Equipment (Proposed New Policy)

Mr. Anderson explained that this policy is to meet the requirements mandated in connection with IDEA and Federal Title funds. An administrative directive will be put in place to provide the specific procedures to be followed to achieve these requirements.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wade adjourned the special called board meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

*To assure academic and personal success
for each child.*

