

MINUTES
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
6:30 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Karen Hawkins, Caresa Brooks, and Crystal Farris

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, MEA President Natalie Hopkins, and others.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Mary Wade called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

OPENING CEREMONY

*Councilman Ron Washington presented the Board with a Proclamation in
Recognition of School Board Appreciation Week in Tennessee
January 23-29, 2011*

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Read to Succeed/Kory Wells—*One Book of Rutherford County*—Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson—Ms. Wells asked the Board and community to join them in reading this book as well as promoting literacy within the community.
- Chick Knitter—NASA Video Titled “Don’t Rock the Boat”—Hobgood sixth-grade teacher Chick Knitter, Educational Assistant Demos Espinoza, students Will Chikara, Arianna Kirkenthat, Vanessa Segoviano, and Sean Oneal shared a video they developed and entered into the NASA Optimus Prime Contest. The Board and community were asked to go to the school’s website and vote for this video. If they win, Mr. Espinoza and one student would be invited to attend a ceremony at the National Space Symposium held in Colorado Springs, CO in April.

- Dr. Gilbert recognized Mrs. Florence Smith thanking her for the 120-Year Celebration Quilt she created from MCS T-Shirts.
- Congratulations to the following teachers who represented MCS at the Tennessee State Technology Conference held in November—Luke Hill, Bradley; Joel Hoag, Scales; Micky Brooks and Trent Cheeves, Technology Coaches
- State Senator Jim Tracy recently announced that MCS has been awarded \$120,000 in grant incentive funds from Tennessee’s “Energy Efficient Schools Initiative.” Mr. Anderson explained that we have received an additional \$31,251 for these projects.
- The Community Outreach Program thanks Kohls Department Store for the \$500 community grant awarded in support of the “Santa’s Workshop” event and to the Riverdale ROTC for their donation of coats and toiletries to the program.
- Congratulations to Scales teacher Hannelore Dickerson who will be a presenter at the MTMT conference, presenting to K-3 level teachers on “Integrating Mathematics Through Literature, Games, & Manipulatives.”

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

On motion by Mr. Rainier and second by Dr. Andrews, the following consent agenda items were approved:

- A. Minutes of the November 23, 2010 Board Meeting and January 11, 2011 Special Called Board Meeting—Policy Work Session
- B. School Fees

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Matching Funds for Energy Efficient Grant (Tab 2)

Mr. Anderson explained that the system has been awarded a grant totaling \$151,251 from the State of Tennessee; MCS will have to fund a total of \$280,229 out of the system’s fund balance to receive the grant funds. The total cost of the projects will be \$431,000. The funds will be used to install energy efficient boilers at Erma Siegel and Cason Lane. The payback period would be five and one-half years. The system will also be able to conserve energy costs by purchasing a “Dedicated Heat Recovery Chiller/Boiler” for Scales Elementary with a payback period of less than four years. Mrs. Duggin moved that the Board approve that the Energy Efficient Grant be accepted and that \$280,229 of its fund balance be approved to pay the required local match portion; Mr. Rainier seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

B. Approval of Acceptance of Energy Efficient Loan (Tab 3)

Mr. Anderson explained that the State of Tennessee has made available interest-free, ten year loans up to \$1 million to school districts who install Energy Efficient equipment. MCS has received tentative approval pending the Board vote and City's approval for it to be a City Based loan from the State. Mr. Anderson stated that he and Dr. Gilbert had attended the Council meeting where the Council did approve this to be a city-based loan from the state. The only cost to MCS would be approximately \$35,238 to be funded out of the General Purpose budget to complete the project. Full payback is estimated at eight and one-half years. At the suggestion of Mr. Washington, we requested funding from TVA and will receive \$30,000. The project would include upgrades to all lighting fixtures at Bellwood, Discovery School, Hobgood, MNE and MNP. HVAC systems would be upgraded at Hobgood, Discovery School, and MNP with new Ductless Split VRF to be placed in cluster areas of between four to six classrooms, or sections of the three schools.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the administration moving forward to secure this loan from the State of Tennessee with the City of Murfreesboro signing off as the borrower of the funds; Dr. Andrews seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

C. Approval to Contract with TSBA to Conduct Evaluation of Director of Schools (Tab 4)

Mrs. Wade asked that the Board approve contracting with TSBA to conduct the evaluation of the Director. She noted that TSBA will meet with Board members, one on one. The Board will have input on the development of the final evaluation instrument. Mr. Rainier moved that the Board contract with TSBA to conduct the evaluation of the Director of Schools; Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

D. Approval of Purchase of Laptops

Mr. Anderson provided the Board with the document titled "Computer Technology Upgrade Proposal—2011." He explained that he is asking for approval to purchase laptop computers for teachers, principals, and assistant principals and also for Board members who wish to have one. MNE and Hobgood teachers already have laptops. The lease for these laptops would be four years at no interest with a three-year warranty included with a \$1 buyout at the end of this period. The system's technicians are Apple certified, can make needed repairs, and will be reimbursed by Apple during the warranty period. The first year's lease would be paid out of the technology reserve fund. The remaining years would be funded from the General Purpose budget by reducing the amount of money budgeted annually for technology equipment. The total purchase price is \$538,000. The first set of laptops would be given to teachers by February 22 if the

Board approves this request. School board meeting software programs are available and would make more Board business paperless.

In response to Mrs. Duggin's question, Mr. Anderson stated that Council Chambers is not wireless, although the City is willing to discuss this possibility with the City School administration. Training will be provided. Dr. Andrews referenced the unit price per computer, but Mr. Anderson explained that the purchase price includes the three-year service warranty and if switching additional software, etc. would have to be purchased. Board members who wish to have a laptop will have one available to them. Mrs. Duggin moved to approve the purchase of laptops on the terms as presented; Mr. Rainier seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

E. Approval of Board Policies – First Reading (Tab 5)

BO 43 – Travel Expense Policy

BO 44 – Reimbursement of Expense Policy for Murfreesboro City
School Board

Mrs. Baker explained that BO 43 and BO 44 had been reviewed at the previous policy review session and are very thorough.

Approval of BO 43 – Travel Expense Policy. On roll call: Andrews – yes; Butrum – yes; Campbell – yes; Duggin – yes; Rainier – yes; Wade – yes. The policy was approved as presented.

Approval of BO 44 – Reimbursement of Expense Policy for Murfreesboro City School Board. On roll call: Andrews – yes; Butrum – yes; Campbell – yes; Duggin – yes; Rainier – no; Wade – yes. The policy was approved as presented.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Inclement Weather Communication

Dr. Gilbert stated that the first priority in any situation involving inclement weather is the safety of the children. She receives information from Mrs. Savely, MCS Transportation Dept., Emergency Management, and Mr. Larry Willeford, MCS Maintenance Supervisor. She also is in contact with Glenn Chrisman, Murfreesboro City Police Chief, and their dispatch office during the day. She and others ride the road to determine the conditions; however, she must also consider the condition of sidewalks and parking lots at the schools. She makes contact with Mr. Anderson, Debra Savely in transportation and Dianne Click in the Extended School Program, and April Hall who notifies parents and staff through School Messenger. City Cable 3, WGNS, as well as the major television stations are also notified. The call is made as early as is possible and is made independent of other school system decisions.

B. MCS Budget Development Timeline for 2011-12 (Tab 6)

Mr. Anderson provided the Board with a timeline for developing the budget. Board budget meetings would be scheduled between April 4th and 15th. The final draft would be provided to the Board on April 19, and final approved sought on April 26 at the regular Board meeting. The budget would be presented to City Council on April 29. Mr. Rainier asked that the first meeting take place before he leaves town on April 7, to meet perhaps on April 4, 5, or 6. Mrs. Wade asked the Board to check their planners for those dates.

C. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 7)

Mr. Anderson reported that the system has a net income of -\$3,029,684 compared to -\$3,806,000 last year at this time. Sales tax has increased by \$100,000 over last year with property taxes increasing by \$176,912. Revenue collections are at 41.4% and expenditures at 46.3%. The system has completed 50% of the fiscal year so we are right on target.

D. Attendance Report (Tab 8)

Mr. Anderson stated that enrollment was 6,873 as of December 9, 2010 which is a decrease of 17 students over last month's report which is a normal fluctuation at this time. K-3 pupil:teacher ratio is 18.42:1 and 4-6 is 19.7:1 which is excellent. Attendance is at 95.8% which is also very good.

E. Personnel Update (Tab 9)

Mr. Anderson shared personnel information behind Tab 9.

1. Resignations, Retirements, and Leaves of Absence
2. New Teachers Hired
3. Interim Teachers Hired
4. Classified Personnel Hired

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Wade reminded the Board that they will meet in retreat at the MTSU Foundation House on Saturday (January 29) beginning at 8 a.m.

In response to Mr. Campbell's question, Mrs. Ridley stated that the agenda when finalized would be placed on the MCS website (www.cityschools.net), first page.

Mrs. Duggin noted that there is a discrepancy in what she is hearing regarding when the percent TCAP counts for a student's grade will go into affect. She is hearing it will not go into effect until 2011-2012; however, passed legislation states 2010-2011.

She asked that we find out when this will actually take place so parents will know what to expect. Dr. Gilbert stated that she has not received communication on this.

Dr. Andrews thanked the schools that donated books to their libraries in Board members' names. Mrs. Wade thanked all who provided recognition to the Board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wade adjourned the Board meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Director of Schools

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