

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING--
POLICY WORK SESSION
Tuesday, May 10, 2011
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, Caresa Brooks, Crystal Farris, Cheryl Harris, Karen Hawkins, Michelle Hummel, Ralph Ringstaff, and Priscilla Van Tries.

Others: City Staff Attorney Adam Tucker.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wade called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 p.m.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the April 19, 2011 Budget Review Session 2 and April 26, 2011 Regular Board Meeting
- B. School Fees

III. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARDED TO THE ENERGY EFFICIENT SCHOOLS INITIATIVE PHASE II

Mr. Anderson explained that the scope of the Efficient Schools Initiative Phase II proposal was changed. New lighting for Northfield was added and the proposed replacement of HVAC units was eliminated. The HVAC units will be addressed through a later grant that will be available. Dr. Andrews moved to approve the Phase II proposal with the change of scope as presented; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

IV. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS' EVALUATION—DR. TAMMY GRISSOM

TSBA Executive Director Dr. Tammy Grissom presented the Board with the results of the Director of Schools' Evaluation on Appendix A—Administrators' Perceptions of Director's Performance Objectives, Appendix B—Board Assessment, and Appendix C—Annual Objectives, objectives 12-34. Dr. Grissom explained that objectives 1-11 in Appendix C cannot be completed until test scores have been received from the Education Department. Therefore, the evaluation cannot be completed until that time. She noted the total mean score of each section that was completed: Appendix A—Administrators' Perceptions, 3.47; Appendix B—Board Assessment—3.38. Dr. Grissom noted that percentages that will be used when the evaluation has been completed are: Appendix A—15%; Appendix B—35%; Appendix C—50%. Dr. Grissom congratulated Dr. Gilbert stating that she received excellent scores.

V. BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

Chair Wade referred to the document titled "Board Self Assessment Results," noting the page titled "Top Nine Items of Greatest Concern." She pointed out that the Board has several items of concern that they each individually need to work to improve. Mr. Campbell stated that it is the responsibility of each Board member to review these concerns and work towards improvement.

VI. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

For Further Discussion:

BO 29—School Visitors (*Proposed Change*)

Mr. Ringstaff pointed out that it had previously been proposed that a photo I.D. be required upon initial registration and when signing a child out for dismissal. Mrs. Phillips was concerned that there may be parents/guardians who would not have a photo I.D. Dr. Gilbert stated that principals felt strongly that this be required for early release. Mr. Ringstaff stated that the system must verify to whom a child is being released. Mr. Campbell emphasized that it is the parent's responsibility to obtain a photo I.D., and that providing it to school personnel is a necessary security requirement. Mr. Tucker suggested that an option might be that the school, at initial registration, take a picture of parents/guardians who do not have a photo I.D. He will review the policy and bring it back to the Board.

BO 31—Fund Raising (*Proposed Change*)

Mr. Tucker did not propose any additional revisions to this policy.

For Discussion:

STU 38—Zero Tolerance Offenses (*Proposed Change*)

Mr. Tucker pointed out that he has reformatted the Zero Tolerance policy and provided copies to the Board. He referred to the section titled “Notification” regarding the reference to existing Board Policy STU 25. Under “Appeal,” he explained that the Disciplinary Hearing Authority would review the facts and evidence to determine if a zero tolerance offense occurred. If they determine the facts and evidence do support a zero tolerance offense, by statute the penalty is expulsion for one year. Only the Director of Schools can amend this penalty. The DHA can recommend a reduced penalty but cannot overturn the penalty. But if the DHA or Board determines the facts did not support a zero tolerance offense, they could reverse the penalty. Mr. Tucker explained that battery as defined by statute is the criminal definition of an assault.

Mr. Campbell referred to lines 43-47, noting the proposed list of people who can file an appeal on behalf of the student. He pointed out that the policy specifies licensed personnel but does not include non-certified, which he believed should be added. Mr. Tucker will review state statutes to see if this can be done and provide that information to the Board.

SS 9—Child Nutrition Management (*Proposed Change*)

Mr. Anderson explained that the cafeteria program cannot be responsible for charges made by students for breakfast/lunch. Paying students who do not bring money that day must charge through the school’s office; the cafeteria provides the student with a meal, but the meal is different from the regular meal being offered that day. Collecting payment from parents has been difficult for office staff. Mr. Anderson stated that food service can collect for the charges rather than the offices. He reviewed each change to the policy as indicated in bold. Mrs. Phillips stated that she is concerned that the policy stipulates that teachers collect and log lunch money. Mr. Anderson explained that parents can pay monthly and can also pay online. The cafeteria cannot, due to time constraints, collect money as students go through the line. Mrs. Phillips asked that the administration look closely to see if there is a way to do this without involving teachers. Mrs. Wade suggested that Board members who have a recommendation email it to Mr. Anderson.

Dr. Gilbert asked the Board to clarify if they are in agreement that report cards can be withheld at the end of the year if a parent/guardian of a student has an outstanding debt. Legally records cannot be held. The Board had discussed this at a prior meeting, so Mrs. Phillips asked that the minutes of that meeting as well as the policy be provided to the Board.

Mrs. Duggin asked that the Board have a policy review meeting in July. Mrs. Wade asked Mrs. Ridley to poll the Board to see if they are available Tuesday, July 12. Dr. Gilbert stated that in addition to the zero tolerance policy, the discipline policy will also need review.

VII. REVIEW OF DRAFT MAY 24, 2011 BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Campbell asked that the Board recognize Dr. Butrum's recent appointment as Superintendent of Bedford County Schools at the May 24 Board meeting. This will be placed under Communications.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wade adjourned the Board meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

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