

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

6:30 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Caresa Brooks, Crystal Farris, Karen Hawkins, Michelle Hummel, and Ralph Ringstaff.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, MEA President Natalie Hopkins, *Daily News Journal* Reporter Mealand Ragland-Hudgins, 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 a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Congratulations to Bradley Academy School Counselor Alison Payne who has been named the Middle Tennessee Grades 5-8 finalist in the Tennessee Teacher of the Year Award. The Tennessee Teacher of the Year will be chosen from the nine statewide finalists in the fall. The final winner will represent Tennessee in the National Teacher of the Year competition.
- The following schools will receive funding up to the amounts indicated to operate the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Bellwood-Bowdoin Preschool—\$19,400; Bradley Academy—\$18,900; Hobgood Elementary—\$16,050.
- School Nutrition applied for and received a grant for approximately \$10,000 that will be used to replaced equipment at MNP.
- A special thanks to Girl Scout Gabriella Beck who is earning her Star Award by working in the Bellwood parenting center, helping with the summer ESP camp, as well as other activities. Gabriella has also used her babysitting money to purchase the materials and supplies she uses while working with our students.

- Congratulations to MNE sixth grade teacher Gayle Porterfield who has been asked by Congresswoman Dianne Black to serve on the Congressional Steering Committee for Innovation in Education.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

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

- June 14, 2011 Special Called Board Meeting/Policy Work Session Minutes
- The Pre-K Advisory Board
- The 2011-12 In-Service Steering Committee
- The Surety Bond for Gary Anderson in the amount of \$1,255,500 at an approximate cost of \$5,954
- Sick Leave Bank Trustee Nominee—Nancy Duggin
- The United Way of Rutherford County & Cannon Counties Contract Between MCS-Franklin Heights Tutoring and Homework Help and United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties
- School Fees

V. ACTION ITEMS

- ~~Approval of Resolution—(Tab 2)- (Delete this Item)
Be it resolved by the Murfreesboro City School Board that the Director of Schools shall have the authority to establish the amounts of funds that will be Committed or Assigned for specific purposes at the end of the fiscal year for the Murfreesboro City School System.~~
- Approval of School Debt Service Budget Amendments (Tab 3)

Mr. Anderson explained that this is a housekeeping amendment requested by City Hall under the new GASB 54 Rules and Regulations requiring the school system to show how assets are accounted for in terms of the money that comes in and goes out to pay for debt on a school building. This is indicated in yellow on the attachments behind Tab 3. City Council approved this document and now asks that the Board do so. In response to Mr. Campbell's question, Mr. Anderson stated that 6,850 was the projected enrollment in this budget, a decrease over the previous fiscal year of 40 students, but this is the debt service piece. Mrs. Phillips expressed her appreciation to City Council for their support and Mr. Washington for his representation.

Mr. Rainier moved to approve the document as presented behind Tab 3; Mrs. Duggin seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

C. Approval of Board Policies—Second Reading (Tab 4)

BO 31—Fund Raising

Mrs. Phillips acknowledged that this policy does not put undue pressure on parents financially. Mrs. Baker reviewed the policy explaining the difference between active and passive fundraisers. Active fundraisers are limited to four per year, inclusive of any fundraisers conducted through the PTAs or PTOs. The policy discourages door-to-door sales and does not encourage rewarding one student. In response to Mr. Rainier, Dr. Gilbert stated that principals have reviewed this policy.

Mr. Rainer moved to approve BO 31—Fundraising as presented; Mrs. Duggin seconded the motion. On roll call: Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

SS 9—Child Nutrition Management

Mrs. Duggin moved to approve SS 9—Child Nutrition Management as provided on the revised copy at the Board's desk; Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. On roll call: Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

STU 38—Zero Tolerance Offenses

Mrs. Baker stated that the policy has been revised to comply with state statutes. She asked that line 33 be revised to add after the words Code of Conduct: *as set forth in the Student/Parent Handbook.*

In response to Mr. Rainier, Mrs. Baker stated that this follows state law, T.C.A. §49-6-3401g). She noted that 1) the term firearm has the same meaning as set forth in 18 U.S.C.A §921(a)(3): *(A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) explosive, incendiary device, or any similar destructive device such as a bomb, grenade, rocket/missile, mine, or poisonous substance. 2) Unlawful possession, use, sale, distribution, or delivery of any drug, including any controlled substance, as defined in T.C.A. §§39-17-403 through 39-17-415, or legend drug, as defined in T.C.A. §53-10-101; and 3) Battery of a teacher, principal, administrator, or any other employee of the school, where battery is defined as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another, or causing physical contact with another person that is extremely offensive or provocative.*

In the appeal process, first the principal will determine if the student has committed a zero tolerance offense. If the student, student's parent or guardian, or any employee of the school system disagrees with that decision, they have the right to appeal to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. They will make the determination if the offense rose to the level of a zero tolerance offense and can make a recommendation to the Director of Schools. The Director of Schools is the only one authorized to determine the actual level of punishment.

Dr. Butrum moved to approve STU 38—Zero Tolerance Offenses with the recommended revision as indicated above; Mr. Rainier seconded the motion. On roll call: Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

PER 29—Vacation Leave (Twelve Month Personnel)

Dr. Butrum moved to approve PER 29—Vacation Leave (Twelve Month Personnel); Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. On roll call: Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

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

Dr. Gilbert thanked Paul Vaughan for his work with the school system through the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation to provide a summer camp for fifth grade students. Mrs. Graham explained that seventeen students participated in the camp over a two-week period and were immersed in community leadership, learning about the characteristics of leaders in the community and their roles. Mrs. Heath explained that the incoming fifth-grade students were nominated by their fourth-grade teachers based on their respect for others and leadership qualities. The following students addressed the Board sharing their experiences at the camp: Andrew Telford, Caroline Lewis, Tyler Erdman, Edwin Walck, and Caroline VerMulm. Additional students in attendance were: Lexie Platt, Anna Beth Campbell, Neicolas Vidaurri, Tora Chikara, Micheal Getzinger, and Allison Dial. Parent Laura Dial expressed her appreciation for the experiences and opportunities provided to the students. Mrs. Phillips stated that the students in the camp were very well-behaved and involved in the camp. Dr. Gilbert thanked the Board for their support and Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Heath for their leadership in making the camp a success.

B. Tech Explore IT – Gretchen Campbell, Micky Brooks, Trent Cheeves, and Judy Henegar/Carol Puryear from the Tennessee Technology Center

Dr. Gilbert thanked Mrs. Henegar and Mrs. Puryear for partnering with MCS to provide opportunities for our students. Mrs. Campbell thanked Micky Brooks, Trent Cheeves, the

Transportation Department, Andrea Bell, and the MCS instruction department for the role they played in this camp. Mrs. Campbell shared a video displaying the students' web site, noting that the students worked with an iPod, did video streaming, etc. Mrs. Puryear addressed the Board stating that they enjoyed this partnership with MCS and the opportunity to provide the students hands-on technology activities, information about the courses and programs at the Center; and, parents were also invited to the Center to learn about career opportunities available to them. Mrs. Henegar explained that Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cheeves were excellent to work with, and the students were studious and very well-behaved. She also noted that an Allied Health Camp will take place beginning July 18, and at that camp, the students will learn about nutrition, taking blood samples, DNA sampling, how pills are made, laparoscopic surgery, etc. Students through this partnership will be exposed to a group of six different allied health fields.

C. Personnel Update (Tab 5)

1. Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence, New Hires—Licensed Personnel
2. Classified Personnel Hired

D. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 6)

Mr. Anderson reported that the system has completed 91.7% of the fiscal year. Net income is at \$1.2 million, which is an improvement over this time last year. Revenue collections are at 91.2%, a little behind due to the fact that sales tax revenue lags two months behind in being recorded. Expenditures are at 88.8% so the system is on target with the budget.

E. Attendance Report (Tab 7)

Mr. Anderson reported that the teacher:pupil ratio in grades K-3 is 18.47 and in grades 4-6 is 19.6. Average daily attendance was 96%. The school year ended with a total student enrollment of 6,881 students, just nine students below what the system budgeted for and about 52 students below the ending enrollment for last school year.

F. Annual Agenda (Tab 8)

The Board was provided with a copy of the 2011-2012 Annual Agenda.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to Mrs. Duggin's question, Mrs. Hawkins stated that approximately 80% of teachers have picked up their math teacher resource kits and others will be able to get them at the training. Math student materials will be ordered July 1 with a delivery date of July 18. She has heard from Morgan Branch that the approval to order the reading textbooks is ready for the Commissioner's signature; delivery will be close to the beginning of the school year. The reading series training will be held during the first four

days when teachers return. Mrs. Duggin thanked Mr. Hawkins and the individuals at the State Department who have worked with MCS to make this happen.

Mrs. Duggin asked about the roll-out for the common core standards. Mrs. Hawkins stated that with reading, the system is actually purchasing a common core edition of the reading series. At the beginning of each unit, it outlines the common core standards. For K-2 students, this will be an easy transition. Math is more difficult because the content does not align as easily. The system will move forward with common core in kindergarten and first grade in math. McGraw-Hill is developing a cross-walk to help make the transition. The system will be careful to prepare second graders for third grade so will reference those Tennessee standards pretty strongly in second grade. Mrs. Duggin added that incoming kindergarten students will be the first students to be tested on the new common core state standards with a new test.

In response to Mr. Rainier's question, Mr. Anderson stated that Mrs. Ridley and a team investigated some programs that would enable the Board to receive their packets electronically but found that the system's technology staff could actually develop this internally and hopefully be available for use by the next regular board meeting. Mr. Anderson stated that the system's technology department will be able to establish a process through which the Board will be able to access the web while in Council Chambers.

Mrs. Wade invited the public to attend policy study sessions held the second Tuesday of the month at the central administration building.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Wade adjourned the regularly scheduled board meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Director of Schools

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