

## MINUTES

### MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

6:00 p.m.—Council Chambers

#### ATTENDANCE

Board: Chair Mary Wade, Jared Barrett, Andy Brown, Butch Campbell, Nancy Rainier, Collier Smith, and Council Liaison Ron Washington. Absent: Nancy Phillips.

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Sheri Arnette, Caresa Brooks, Crystal Farris, Patty Kennedy, Christina Maddux, Ralph Ringstaff, and Lisa Trail.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker and Principals Roseann Barton, Robin Newell, Emily Spencer, and others.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

##### I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

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

##### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

##### III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Foundation's Excellence in Education Celebration—Board member Collier Smith, liaison to the Foundation, announced that this year's Celebration would be held on February 1 in honor of retired Board member Dr. Susan Andrews.
- Congratulations to Newly Appointed Scales Principal, Don Barch and ESP Director, Xavier Hamler.
- Congratulations to Catherine Stephens who has been chosen as a Principal Core Coach for Tennessee.
- Congratulations to Stacey Burt, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at The Discovery School, who is a Tennessee Teacher of the Year finalist. The next step in the process is the interview which takes place in August.
- Mitchell-Neilson Schools would like to thank Bob Parks Realty for their constant support this year and most recently for their generous donation of \$2,145 for the purchase of a CPS Student Response System.

- MCS will receive \$15,000 from United Way for the Franklin Heights Homework/Tutoring Program.

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#### IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

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

- A. Minutes of the May 22, 2012 Board Meeting and June 12, 2012 Special Called Board Meeting/Policy Work Session
- B. The Surety Bond for Gary Anderson in the amount of \$1,508,900 at an approximate cost of \$6,417
- C. Sick Leave Bank Trustee—Nancy Phillips (Replaces Nancy Duggin)
- D. David Scott as Foundation Trustee
- E. Board Policies (*Second Reading*)

PER 22—Personnel Records (*Revision*)

STU 18—Child Abuse and/or Neglect (*Complete Rewrite*)

STU 43—Use of Personal Communication Devices in School (*Complete Rewrite*)

#### V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Board Policies (*Second Reading*) (Tab 2)

SS 9—Child Nutrition Management (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker presented SS 9 pointing out that by federal law there are five food groups now, and students must choose three with one of the three being a fruit or vegetable. No additional revisions were recommended by the Board. On motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mrs. Smith, SS 9 was approved as presented by acclamation.

IS 12—Grading System (*Rewrite*)

Mrs. Baker stated that revisions to IS 12 were presented by Mrs. Hawkins at the last policy session. On motion by Mr. Campbell and second by Mrs. Rainier, IS 12 was approved as presented by acclamation.

STU 10—Student Safety (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker reviewed the revisions indicated in bold stating that additional language was added for clarification of who is responsible for overseeing the safety in the schools, which would be the principal with assistance of central office staff. In addition, lines

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15-16 were revised to state that school personnel and students are to observe safe practices inside the school building and on the school grounds. On line 24, the revision notes that the principal will notify police if indicated by the circumstances. On motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mr. Barrett, STU 10 was approved as presented by acclamation.

STU 20—Procedural Due Process (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker reviewed the revisions indicated in bold stating that additional language was added for more detail about the steps that take place if a student has been disciplined with a suspension of ten days or more or expulsion, and the student's due process rights based on state statutes and case law. On motion by Mr. Barrett and second by Mr. Campbell, STU 20 was approved as presented by acclamation.

STU 21—Interrogations and Searches (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker stated that STU 21 is slightly revised based on state statutes regarding interrogations and searches of a student by school personnel and the police. Changes were to clarify that if law enforcement or DCS require the principal not to be present during an interview of a student, then they must honor that request. Failure to honor that request could be considered an obstruction of justice. On motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mrs. Smith, STU 21 was approved as presented by acclamation.

STU 31—Communicable Diseases (Students) (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker presented STU 32 noting that the policy has slight revisions clarifying some of the language. She pointed out the revision to lines 11-13. In response to Mrs. Smith's question, Mrs. Baker explained that 504 is the educational version of the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires that the school district provide reasonable accommodations to an individual with a disability. She also clarified that special education services would be provided if the student's condition/disease prevents the student from achieving learning via a free public education. On motion by Mrs. Rainier and second by Mr. Campbell, STU 31 was approved as presented by acclamation.

STU 32—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Student/Personnel  
(*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker explained that revisions to STU 32 have been made due to changes in state statute and to clarify that if a child is in this situation, the special education laws and 504 accommodations would come into play as explained in discussion relative to STU 31. Mrs. Rainier stated that she is concerned with lines 18-19 which state that all matters

pertaining to a student in this situation would be under the direct supervision of the Director of Schools, which seems restrictive to the teacher's ability to discipline or

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handle situations with the student. Mrs. Baker explained that if the parent chooses to disclose the child's HIV status, regulations mandate that all matters would fall under the direct supervision of the Director. The Director would stay informed of what is going on with the student in order to make sure it is being handled appropriately, more in regards to health issues. Mrs. Smith asked if the word "direct" could be removed. Mrs. Baker stated that she would need to review the regulations to determine if "direct" could be removed. Dr. Brown moved to approve STU 32, with the understanding that "direct" will be removed if Mrs. Baker's review of regulations determines this can be done; Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

#### STU 34—Drug-Free Schools (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker stated that STU 34 was revised based on the recommendation of TSBA and state regulations as indicated in lines 12-49. On motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mr. Barrett, STU 34 was approved as presented by acclamation.

#### STU 35—Tobacco-Free Schools (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker stated that at the last policy review meeting, the Board asked her to check state laws to see if the school campuses could be made completely tobacco free. She stated that the Board can make this restriction. Mrs. Smith moved that the school buildings and campuses become tobacco-free. In response to Mr. Campbell's question, Mrs. Baker stated that if the district posts that the schools' campuses are tobacco-free environments, any organization or group renting the schools' facilities would have to comply with this policy, as it would be written into the facility use agreement. Visitors (Junior Pro, community members, Parks and Recreation sports teams, etc.) would have to comply with the Board's policy. In response to Mrs. Rainier's question, she stated that she would have to check on the Parks and Rec policy. Mrs. Baker stated that employees now can smoke on campuses if they remain at least fifty feet from the district's buildings. Dr. Brown seconded Mrs. Smith's motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

#### STU 27—Corporal Punishment (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker stated that this policy was revised to clarify that corporal punishment will not be used as a means of discipline in any school. The language that was deleted will be brought back in a policy that addresses restraint or isolation of children. On motion by Mrs. Rainier and second by Dr. Brown, STU 27 was approved as presented by acclamation.

#### *Request Final Approval*

#### PER 17—Evaluation of Professional Staff (*Revision*)

Mrs. Baker stated that this is the Board's first review of PER 17; however the revision on lines 46-47 stating that the Director of Schools shall develop procedures, consistent with Board Meeting Minutes

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State law, for processing evaluation grievances is required by state law and must be approved by July 1. The Director will set these procedures out in an administrative directive. Dr. Gilbert clarified that the licensed personnel not directly assigned to the principal could be employees such as school psychologists. On motion by Mr. Campbell and second by Mr. Barrett, PER 17 received final approved as presented by acclamation.

B. Approval of Commodity Budget Amendment (Tab 3)

Mr. Anderson explained that the food service program receives money from the federal government through the USDA commodity program, and this year, school districts are required to show the value of the commodities received. Our district received \$186,605, which is reflected in the school nutrition budget as money in, money out. On motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mr. Campbell, the commodity budget amendment was approved as presented by acclamation.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Community Outreach and Camp PRISM Update

Mr. Lyles shared that the school district could not do what it does without the support of our community partners, civic groups, and faith-based partners. The district community outreach employees are: Candy Clifford, Ruth Gonzalez-Hill, Marisala Tapia, and Dimas Espinoza. He shared various activities that have taken place: A mural at Patterson Center (Dr. Debra Siglevoy), MTSU Baseball Camp, Reading Rocker Program (Cracker Barrel), Boys to Men, Club Neutron, Break Away Camps, Girls Camp, Parent Education Opportunities such as parent coffees, budgeting classes, etc., and community garden projects sponsored by the Rutherford County Soil Conservation District. A few of the partners supporting the district's outreach programs include: MTMC, MTSU, Murfreesboro Housing Authority, Parks and Recreation, Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue, and the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Dr. Rebecca Callahan, MTSU, and Ms. Kristy Lewis, Mitchell-Neilson Elementary, worked with Camp PRISM. Teacher leader Ms. Kelley Kleppinger could not attend the Board meeting this evening. Ms. Lewis stated that Camp PRISM has taken place for the past three years and this year served 50 students. Students attended MTSU classes, visited the MTSU Dairy Farm, visited Nissan, as well as other experiences. Dr. Callahan stated that the collaboration has not only been beneficial for MCS's students but also for the MTSU faculty and students. Ms. Lewis shared a video of the students' involvement in various activities. Mr. Lyles extended his appreciation to all involved in Camp PRISM.

Mr. Lyles shared that other camps taking place in the district were: Scales—Shoot for the Moon; Black Fox and Mitchell-Neilson—Tech Camp; Dr. Caresa Brooks—Reading Clinics at various sites; Bradley—Reading Camp with MTSU; Franklin Heights—Arts, Literacy Week, Math and Business Management, as well as others; Tennessee Meeting Minutes

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Technology Center—Math and Science Camp. In addition, summer feeding sites were located throughout the district as well as the weekend Backpack Food program. Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Lyles and all involved for their involvement with community partners, especially MTSU and local businesses. Dr. Brown also commended this involvement in the community, and thanked Dr. Callahan for her work with the community and school district.

B. Common Core Standards – Rebecca Few and Karen Cook

Dr. Gilbert stated that Rebecca Few and Karen Cook have been studying about common core standards and will be sharing what they have learned with the district. Mrs. Few stated that common core standards were written by parents, teachers, administrators, and experts in the field of math education. The goal of common core is to have students college and career ready by going deep into the practices of math. The common core condenses the standards into 25 areas of study. The instructional shifts are to focus, coherence, and rigor, called “Doing Mathematics” in our state. Partial implementation of common core will take place this year with full implementation in 2014-15. Ms. Cook stated that 12,000-14,000 teachers will be undertaking training for common core. About 200 teachers are trained and will share this training with their colleagues. She and Mrs. Few will share their training for three weeks in July moving teachers in a different direction. Their training in April included “high level tasks.” Students will be required to dig deep, concentrating on the process, with total involvement. Dr. Brown stated that critical thinking is key to success in business and industry for our students in the future work force.

C. Personnel Update (Tab 4)

Dr. Gilbert shared that the personnel report includes certified and classified personnel hired and that additional personnel information regarding retirees, resignations, etc. have been placed on the Board’s desk.

D. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 5)

Mr. Anderson reported that at the end of May the district had completed 92% of the fiscal year, and the report reflects a net income of \$180,932. This amount is lower than last year due to the fact the district will not receive a BEP payment or growth revenue until June, and the city’s payment was not received in time to be reflected in this report. This is equivalent to approximately \$3.5 million. Revenue collections are at 91.1%, and expenditures are at 90%.

E. Attendance Report (Tab 6)

Mr. Anderson reported that the district ended with 207 students over the end of last school year, or 3% growth. The district is 157 students over the number originally

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budgeted, or 2.3% growth. The district's student enrollment ended at 7,004 students including special education, and the district serves an additional 400 preschool students. The pupil:teacher ratios are: K-3, 18.90; 4-6, 20.68, and overall, 19.55. Our attendance is at 96%, which is extremely consistent. In response to Mrs. Rainier, Mr. Anderson said projected growth for next year is an additional 172 students based on the end of the year report. Preregistration is coming in strong.

F. Annual Agenda (Tab 7)

Dr. Gilbert provided the Board with the annual agenda stating that if they have recommended changes to contact Mrs. Ridley.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Wade announced that the Board does not have a meeting scheduled in July.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Wade adjourned the Board meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.

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Director of Schools

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