

MINUTES
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Tuesday, October 22, 2013
6:00 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Sheri Arnette, Lea Bartch, Caresa Brooks, Crystal Farris, Kim Franks, Shavon Davis-Louis, Greg Lyles, Joe Marlin, and Ralph Ringstaff.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, Principals, and *Daily News Journal* reporter Amanda Haggard.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- November 18-22 is American Education Week. Theme—*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*
- The “Excellence in Education Celebration” honoring Dr. Sydney and Liz McPhee will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the Stones River Country Club.
- Rezoning—Community Information Meetings:
 - Oct. 22—5:30-6:00 p.m. Discovery School
 - Oct. 24—5:00-6:30 p.m. Scales Elementary
 - Oct. 28—5:00-6:30 p.m. John Pittard Elementary
 - Oct. 30—4:30-6:00 p.m. Mitchell-Neilson Primary
 - Nov. 11—5:30-7:00 p.m. Bradley AcademyIn response to Mrs. Phillips’ question, Dr. Gilbert stated that information regarding the meetings had been provided to principals; Principal Robin Newell stated that the information had been sent home in newsletters and has been posted on the marquee. An “all call” will also go out to parents. Dr. Gilbert will also share the information with assistant principals during their meeting.

- Congratulations to Interim Finance Manager Beth Prater who has completed the eleven course program offered by MTAS through UT to achieve the “Certified Municipal Finance Officer” (CMFO) status.
- The following schools have received an “Arts Student Ticket Subsidy” grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission: Northfield--\$700; Cason Lane—\$2,343.
- Congratulations to Discovery librarian Sarah Svarda who was awarded a \$3,000 grant from Donors Choose, which will be used to place a book in the library for each student in the month of their birthday. Students with birthdays in the same month will gather together to see their book and enjoy a special treat.
- Congratulations to Jennifer Clunie who has been recognized by Office Max as “A Day Made Better” recipient. Ms. Clunie received over \$1,100 in gifts and school supplies and Black Fox received nearly \$1,200.
- Congratulations to Chick Knitter who has been selected as Teacher of the Week by the Tennessee Titans, American Paper & Twine, and Georgia Pacific. Mr. Knitter’s name will be announced at the October 20th Titans game. He will receive a plaque, gift basket, and teaching supplies.
- Congratulations to Angela Bunyi who was selected as one of Murfreesboro Magazine’s most beautiful women.
- Ms. Angela Bunyi and Ms. Neely Embree were coordinators of the Murfreesboro Middle Half Marathon.
- Congratulations to Northfield Elementary, MNE/MNP, and Northfield/Black Fox Bus riders who received the “red carpet” treatment for good behavior when riding MCS buses.
- Mitchell-Neilson would like to thank the MTSU Women’s Basketball Team for donating basketballs to the MN girls’ team.
- Our appreciation to Kristy Mall who recently presented at the Tennessee Association for Gifted Conference.
- Thanks to Meri-Leigh Smith, Coordinated School Health Supervisor, who hosted members of the State Board of Education to see the partnership we have that provide optometry exams and EPSDT screenings to our children.
- Thanks to Caresa Brooks who welcomed a group of administrators from Coffee County to discuss Murfreesboro’s approach to RTI.
- Congratulations to the following who have been asked to present at the LEAD conference next week: Robin Newell as part of a panel with other schools who are working to increase shared leadership in their buildings; and, Caresa Brooks, Kimberly Osborne, and Shavon Louis who will share what MCS is doing with RTI.

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 September 24, 2013 Board Meeting, the 4 p.m. October 15 Information Session, and the 6 p.m. October 15, 2013 Special Called Board Meeting

B. School Fees

C. MCS Administrator Extended Learning Plan, 2013-14

D. The 2013-14 Extended Learning Programs Proposal

V. ACTION ITEMS

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Tennessee/Shanghai Leadership Collaborative

Dr. Gilbert explained that the district is part of the Tennessee Lead Fellowship program initiative in which three of our schools are involved, Northfield, Mitchell-Neilson and Bradley. Those principals visited Shanghai schools to look at how they address leadership and instruction in their schools. Eighteen school districts in Tennessee participated. The Shanghai city school district has the highest scores in the world, and principals were sent to see how that district operates. Some points made were:

- The campus is enclosed by a tall fence, and armed guards are stationed at the gates to screen visitors. The length of the school day is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Students eat in the classroom and are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. They have one hour for lunch at which time many will visit with their teachers to get help with anything they are struggling with, while others go outside and have the freedom to wander on the campus. They have independence but are held responsible for their behavior.
- Teachers have cubicles/offices.
- The teachers specialize in one subject area providing a high level of expertise. They can teach their kindergarten children through grade four.
- Teachers observe each other 15 times per semester and are provided the time to give each other feedback. They work together to develop lesson plans, which are stored electronically and would be available to all including new teachers.
- Students begin taking English in the kindergarten and take it for nine years.
- Attendance at a Shanghai school is a privilege. Migrant students who attend but are not from Shanghai must return to their migrant school at grade seven and take a test they must pass to be allowed to attend high school.

Dr. Loyd and Mrs. Newell stated that they are starting to implement teachers observing other teachers in some of their grade levels. These are observations, not evaluations. Mrs. Phillips stated that students in Shanghai feel the pressure to succeed as they can be sent back to their migrant school. Mr. Campbell stated that the United States educates all students. Mrs. Phillips stated that she would not wish our students to feel that pressure.

She has heard that the U.S. educational system is better at teaching critical thinking skills and problem solving. Mrs. Newell stated that principals from Shanghai will be coming to Tennessee school districts to learn about how our educational system works. Mrs. Smith added that some of the teachers from China she had met in the past did not seem to be as familiar with their students as our teachers are. Dr. Loyd explained that those who participated in the endeavor have to report on a monthly cycle, developing a common lesson plan, getting feedback from teachers, etc. He believes his teachers will value the observations and feedback once they get over being nervous. The Shanghai approach is the next step above what this district is already doing with PLC's. Dr. Brown asked how as a system we would evaluate what they have brought back, decide on areas we want to focus on, and then implement that systemwide. Mrs. Newell stated that Vanderbilt does surveys to collect data, feedback, etc. and then the administrators give feedback, too, with the goal to determine what we want to use. Dr. Gilbert added that Shavon Davis-Louis works closely with schools on data collection and instruction determining what is working and what is not working. Hobgood is already videotaping some specific strategies and analyzing that information. The district is doing more observations and sharing strategies. Mr. Campbell stated that teachers can always learn from each other. Mrs. Newell stated that Shanghai teachers have the time to observe other teachers built into their schedules. They teach three or four lessons a day and then have the rest of the time to work together planning lessons. Mrs. Phillips added that MCS has professional development built in. Mrs. Rainier stated that she likes the process of looping, but the universities and colleges would have to revisit their philosophy of specializing for specific grade levels. Mrs. Newell stated that although licensure would be an issue here, they are concentrating on the observations and sharing component at this time.

B. Personnel Update (Tab 2)

Provided for the Board's information.

C. Construction Update

Dr. Gilbert reviewed with the Board the construction update document dated October 22, 2013, and also provided aerial views of the new Overall Creek Elementary School.

D. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 3)

Dr. Gilbert reported that the district has a current deficit of \$1.8 million, which is typical until property tax revenue begins to come in. At this time last year, the district had a deficit of \$2.6 million, so the district is doing well. Sales tax revenue is up \$30,000. Expenditures are at 18.5% compared to 19.5% last year at this time.

E. Attendance Report (Will be provided prior to meeting.)

Enrollment has increased by 22 students over this time last year. Pupil:teacher ratios are: K-3, 19.08; grades 3-6, 20.09; and, districtwide, 19.44. Attendance is 97%.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Rainier suggested that since the November board meeting had been changed from November 12th to the 19th, perhaps the Board could eliminate the November 26 board meeting, as it is right before the Thanksgiving holiday. Mrs. Phillips stated she was concerned about having time to review all information regarding zoning and believed there should be another meeting before the Board votes on zoning November 19. Dr. Gilbert stated Mr. Anderson will be compiling the information from the community meetings for the Board. Mrs. Wade stated that if the Board needed to reactivate the meeting they could. Mrs. Baker stated that any additional meeting(s) would have to be advertised.

Mrs. Rainier moved to change the November 26 meeting to November 5 and continue with the November 19 meeting; Mrs. Smith seconded the motion.

Mrs. Wade asked that Dr. Gilbert check with Mr. Anderson to make sure he would have time to provide the Board the community input.

Mrs. Phillips suggested that the Board meet following the November 11 community meeting at Bradley, with the Board having received all community input. Mrs. Rainier rescinded her motion; Mrs. Smith rescinded her second.

Mrs. Rainier moved that the Board meet at Bradley Academy at 7 p.m. on November 11 regarding zoning, having the regular Board meeting on November 19, canceling the November 26 board meeting; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion. On roll call: Barrett—yes; Brown—yes; Campbell—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Smith—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:03 p.m.

Director of Schools

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