

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING-- BUDGET REVIEW SESSION Sunday, April 21 — 3:00 p.m. Central Administration Building

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Sheri Arnette, Caresa Brooks, Kim Frank, Karen Hawkins, Kristina Maddux, Beth Prater, Ralph Ringstaff, and Lisa Trail.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wade called the board meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.

II. FY'14 BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Ringstaff shared the document regarding positions in other school districts that are similar to the positions requested to be added to the budget. Document is included in the minutes. Dr. Gilbert provided the Board a document regarding the requested positions noting that she will not request the position of Data Analyst/Math Coach, but asked to keep \$21,000 in line 72210 138 to give flexibility to change a 10.5 month position to 12 month if needed. She is still requesting the Gifted Coordinator, with a possible \$25,000 grant from a private source to assist with funding for this position. She has asked that the position to provide testing support remain and be funded through IDEA. Dr. Gilbert also emphasized that the budget does not include funding for technology, which will need to be addressed.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the documents regarding budget adjustments, non-personnel and personnel, pointing out the two big budget adjustments fall in Operation of Plant and Transportation in the non-personnel section, and with personnel reductions as indicated above, eliminating the Data Analyst/Math Coach position and moving the Testing Coordinator/Psychologist position into IDEA. Non-personnel and personnel savings would total \$1,119,629. The only additional revenue source would be the possibility of private funding of \$25,000.

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Mr. Anderson then reviewed the requests made by Board members for inclusion in the budget: three media assistants (MDA's), addition of 1.4 art teachers to place a full-time art teacher in every school, and a 1.5% raise for all employees, at a total cost of \$734,093.

Mrs. Smith voiced a concern regarding the cost of resurfacing the playground at Erma Siegel. Mrs. Baker stated that the biggest liability to school systems are a result of injuries sustained on playgrounds. Mr. Campbell noted that he would rather not piece-meal the repairs as the district would have to come back and finish it a future date. Mr. Anderson noted that replacement of doors at the Mitchell-Neilson schools has been a request for several years. Dr. Gilbert pointed out the immediate danger of the Mitchell-Neilson playgrounds to the streets. Fencing in these areas is a great need to assure the safety of the children. Mrs. Rainier stated that she believes the tennis courts should be removed from the schools' campuses as they are not being maintained properly to avoid injury. Mr. Anderson explained that there is an area at Erma Siegel that can be addressed by placing barriers to keep cars from driving onto the playground/campus area. Dr. Gilbert explained that cell phone expense can be decreased as some employees, like nurses, are now assigned schools and are not providing as much district-wide services. More professional development will be provided in-house which will equate to savings in that area. In response to Mr. Campbell's question regarding budgetary "wants" versus "needs," Dr. Gilbert stated that with the demands on education, the needs have increased significantly, with little room to fund "wants."

Mr. Anderson explained that the request for fencing in the transportation property is to eliminate the possibility of vandalism, as the property is located next to the county's detention center. Vandalism to buses would cost a great deal more to repair than the \$12,000 requested to provide fencing. Mrs. Rainier stated that she believes media centers need more funding. In response to her question regarding the cost to the school media centers for the new Destiny program, Mr. Anderson stated that emails from media center teachers stated that they wanted him to move forward with the purchase and were okay with the initial cost.

Mr. Campbell asked that if The Discovery School is provided a full-time art teacher, would that teacher have periods where he/she would not have art classes. Dr. Gilbert stated that if that were to be the case, that art teacher would be assigned to assist with intervention or other instructional needs. Dr. Brooks explained the expanded requirements of the Response to Intervention program, increased layers of intervention and increased assessments.

Mr. Anderson provided the Board documents detailing the impact a 1.5% raise would have on employees, both with a Bachelor's and a Master's degree, and also the affect on percentages when including steps.

Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the following items remain in the budget, and that the budget with these recommendations be brought to the Board for approval on Tuesday evening.

Erma Siegel Playground – obtain current bids, but leave the \$158,000 figure in the budget
Fence for Transportation/Security for Buses--\$12,000
Fence in Mitchell-Neilson Primary and Elementary Playgrounds
Replace Mitchell-Neilson Elementary and Primary Doors
Add a 1.5% across-the-board raise

Mr. Anderson stated that the recommended revisions will be made, and revised budget sections will be delivered to the Board Monday afternoon.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wade adjourned the Board meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

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