

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

6:00 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Lea Bartch, Caresa Brooks, Kim Franks, Karen Hawkins, Shavon Davis-Louis, Greg Lyles, Joe Marlin, and Ralph Ringstaff.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, Natalie Hopkins and Ty Batts, 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. John Pittard Elementary students Tommy Gonzalez, Riley Moore, and Tristen Young led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Wade noted that Item B under Reports/Information will be held until the next Board meeting. The agenda with this exclusion was approved on motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mrs. Phillips by acclamation.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Dr. Gilbert congratulated Jared Barrett and Nancy Rainier who were recognized during the recent TSBA District meeting for having achieved Boardmanship Level I.
- 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.
- Dr. Gilbert stated that the Foundation Fashion Show will be held Thursday, September 26, 5:30 p.m. at Stones River Country Club. Anyone needing tickets can contact the central office.
- Murfreesboro City Schools participated in Read to Succeed's "Reading in the Schools Day" held on September 20.
- The Murfreesboro Middle Half Marathon and Murph Fun Run will be held on Saturday, October 12, at MTSU.

- Mitchell-Neilson Schools would like to thank Sunnette Peay from Bob Parks Realty for the teacher goody bags that were filled to the rim with everything from their wish lists!
- Congratulations to Greg Lyles who was named a Maury County Hometown Hero.
- Scales Elementary will be having a yard sale Saturday, September 28, from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- The Discovery Center held the Hispanic Celebration in conjunction with the district's Outreach team on Saturday.
- Mrs. Phillips was wished a happy birthday and Mr. Campbell a speedy recovery from his surgery.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

On motion by Dr. Brown and second by Mr. Barrett, the following consent agenda items were approved as presented by acclamation.

- A. Minutes of the August 27, 2013 Regular Board Meeting and September 17, 2013 Special Called Board Meeting/Policy Work Session
- B. Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committee
- C. Certification of Compliance with TCA Section 49-3-310(4)(A)—Textbooks
- D. School Fees
- E. Board Policies—*Second Reading*

FM 14—Energy Management and Conservation (*Revision*)

IS 17—Relations with Education Research and Service Centers (*Revision*)

STU 25—Suspension/Expulsion/Remand (*Revision*)

BO 48—Section 504 Complaint/Grievance Procedures (*New*)

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Collaborative Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (Tab 2)

Dr. Gilbert explained that collaborative conferencing is a procedure that exists due to a change in state law that did away with collective bargaining. Last October, the Board appointed a committee and the district's teachers appointed a committee. The committee met July 19 and with some tweaking since then, the Board received on Thursday the Memorandum of Understanding agreed upon by both committees. Basically, the MOU is taken from board policies, administrative directives, and state law. She pointed out that: "Association Access" was part of the previous contract. "Grievance Procedure" was based on board policy. "Representation" was part of the previous contract but was agreed upon collaboratively. "Facilities and Safety" was part of the previous contract.

“Teacher Work Hours” is part of an administrative directive. “Duty-Free Lunch” and “Duty-Free Planning Time” is based on state law. “Activities Beyond the Regular School Day” was a part of the former contract. “Access to Files” was agreed upon collaboratively. The MOU will be in effect for a period of three years.

Dr. Gilbert stated that she is proud of the fact that the administration and professional employees have a relationship where they can reach a memorandum of understanding, which is not required by state law.

Ms. Natalie Hopkins addressed the Board noting that the process was easy because both teams put the work in and worked together, made suggestions, and handled what needed to be done. She stated that she also appreciates the relationship with the team and Board so that this process went so well. Ms. Ty Batts agreed that the experience was a good one, with open discussion and open mindedness. She appreciated the administrative team, too. Mrs. Smith stated that she liked that the MOU was handled so well and that it represents the teachers’ wishes so well.

In response to Mrs. Phillips’ question, Ms. Hopkins stated that there was a total of fourteen people, seven members on each team. The professional educators on the team were those who decided for teachers what would be proposed on the document, and then approve the final document. Dr. Gilbert stated that the process takes time because the professional educators have to decide if they want to proceed with the process, decide on their team, etc. Mrs. Phillips asked that the Board be kept in the loop during the process. Dr. Brown asked what process would take place if concerns arise regarding items in the document. Ms. Hopkins stated that their president would contact Dr. Gilbert, and the document does include a grievance procedure. Mrs. Rainier stated that this is the document that replaces the “contract” that was traditionally developed. Dr. Gilbert explained that there are certain items that can be discussed and others that cannot by law. She said some districts are unable to reach an agreement, but she is proud that this district can. Mrs. Rainier agreed.

Mrs. Phillips moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented; Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

- A. Signing of Board Policy BO 38—School Board Accountability Standards
(Tab 3)

Each Board member read aloud a section of BO 38 and signed the document.

- B. Academic Update (Tabled until next meeting)

- C. Personnel Update (Tab 4)

D. Construction Update

Mr. Anderson reviewed the status of Hobgood's administration and service areas which should be completed by the end of fall break, Bradley's elevator is complete, the new west school is moving forward with site work, foundation and block work (pictures provided), fencing at MNE and the shop has been completed, central office will be reroofed due to hail damage, the architect is working on the needed foundation work at Discovery, district painters have completed the exterior of Hobgood, metal bar gates will be removed from Bradley's serving line, and the exterior doors at MNE and MNP will be replaced during winter break. In response to Mrs. Smith's question, Mr. Anderson stated that work has not yet begun to replace the playground surface at Erma Siegel.

E. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 5)

The district has completed 16.7% of the fiscal year, has received 8.4% of anticipated revenue, and is in the red, which is typical until property taxes and holiday sales tax revenue comes in. Expenditures are at 10.6%, which is up from last year but is likely due to those expenditures, such as technology, that must be completed early in the fiscal year.

F. Attendance Update (Tab 6)

Enrollment has increased by 68 students over last year. The pupil:teacher ratios are: K-3, 19.15; grades 4-6, 20.35; and, district-wide, 19.58. Overall the bigger classes are in the lower grades so greater growth is anticipated in coming years.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Phillips asked for an update on recess at the next board meeting.

Dr. Gilbert stated that the academic update will take place at the next meeting, and the Board will receive a report from our principals who went to Shanghai.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:33 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

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

