

MINUTES  
Murfreesboro City School Board  
6 p.m., Tuesday, October 28, 2014  
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

School Board: Chair Butch Campbell, Vice Chair Nancy Rainier, Dr. Andy Brown, Jared Barrett, Phil King, Collier Smith, Nancy Phillips

Staff: Karen Hawkins, Lisa Trail, Lea Bartch, Joe Marlin, Caresa Brooks, Sheri Arnette, Kristina Maddux, Sandy Scheele, Kristy Mall, Greg Lyles, Kim Frank, Tammy Garrett

Discovery Center: Tara MacDougall, Meredith Hilleary, Jennifer Neal, Miriam Owen

Board Liaison Ron Washington, Staff Attorney Kelley Baker

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. asking Dr. Brown to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a Moment of Silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Barrett seconded. All approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gilbert thanked Tara MacDougall and the STEAM bus for coming to the School Board meeting and allowing everyone to take a tour of the bus. Ms. MacDougall said they are beginning the fourth year of the super science program explaining that the bus was gutted and retro fitted for the project. Ms. MacDougall said the education team is on the road Tuesday through Friday, and they still have jobs at the Discovery Center. She said the STEAM bus is a model for other systems, and she has had calls from other districts. Ms. MacDougall credited Dr. Gilbert, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Arnette, and Transportation Supervisor Ms. Jordan with making the project possible. Ms. MacDougall thanked the many project contributors: Museums for Americans Grant, Jennings & Rebecca Jones Foundation, Siegel Foundation, Nissan North America, MCS, Corporate Flight Management, and General Mills.

Dr. Gilbert next addressed Ms. Mall, Ms. Trail, and Ms. Maddux. Ms. Trail and Ms. Maddux recognized Ms. Mall for receiving the Tennessee Teacher of the Year Award for Teachers of the Gifted for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Gilbert announced the following District communications:

- Congratulations to Brenda Dale and Kelley Kleppinger who were awarded a grant to bring the Nashville Opera’s “Jack and the Bean Stalk” to Mitchell-Neilson School.
- Congratulations to Kimberly Osborne who has been recommended to be appointed by the State Board of Education to the Governor’s Math Advisory Team for Grades K-6 to help develop new state standards. And congratulations to Dr. Terrance Haynes and Ms. Shavon Davis-Louis for being selected to review social studies test items.
- Congratulations to Ms. Robin Newell who was selected to participate in the State Roundtable, hosted by US Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan.
- Congratulations to our Murfreesboro City School Board members for achieving various levels of Boardmanship. The following members were recognized at the fall regional TSBA meeting:
  - Butch Campbell has achieved Level IV Boardmanship.
  - Nancy Rainier has achieved Level II Boardmanship.
  - Jared Barrett has achieved Level II Boardmanship.
  - Collier Smith has achieved Level I Boardmanship.

Ms. Trail made a special presentation to Ms. Phillips on behalf of MCS and City TV for winning an Honorable Mention at this year’s NATOA Competition for Adventures in Murphy’s Burrow. NATOA is the nation-wide organization, which represents government and community programming. Ms. Phillips thanked everyone who participates in and makes the programming possible, and for allowing Murphy to come visit schools and other events.

Dr. Gilbert continued with Communications:

- John Pittard Elementary would like to thank the many donors who helped their Olweus Community Kickoff:
  - Textbook Brokers, \$100
  - TDK Construction, \$100
  - Accordant Technology, \$100
  - Unique Dental Care, PLLC, \$100
  - Tenpenny Heat and Air, \$250
  - Jackson Construction, \$100
  - Rick Hardesty & Lewis Baker, 500 hot dog buns
- Community Outreach would like to thank Second Harvest Food Bank for assisting us in meeting the needs of our students. We started the year with sending out 190 bags of food per week and are now at 350 bags. Thank you to those who pack the bags and, of course, Mr. Lyles.
- Community Outreach would like to thank United Way and Hometown Huddle groups.
  - City Auto – John Pittard
  - Amazon – Reeves-Rogers
  - Bob Parks – Mitchell-Neilson
  - General Mills – Scales
  - Kudos to United Way

- The United Way for providing so much in the way of supplies to students, teachers, and schools.
- Community Outreach would like to thank Publix for their huge donation of supplies to our schools.
- Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank Bob Parks Realty and Agent Sunnette Peay for donating 40 pumpkins for the annual classroom pumpkin decorating contest.
- Mitchell-Neilson School would also like to thank Phillip O'Reilly at Newk's for their generous donation to the school.
- Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank Dr. Brown and Kathy Ferrell with the Mobile Health Unit for conducting FREE sports physicals for students in September.
- Thank you to the City Schools Foundation for awarding \$50,000 in grants to MCS.

#### IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Campbell asked for approval of the consent items on the agenda if there were no changes or discussion. Dr. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2014 School Board meeting and approve the school fees. Ms. Phillips made a second to the motion, and the motion carried.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS

##### Policy Revision: IS 5 Textbook Selection and Adoption     *First Reading*

Ms. Baker explained that Policy IS 5 regarding Textbook Selection and Adoption has been revised in light of changes to Tennessee state law, which takes effect January 1, 2015. Ms. Baker explained the revisions to the policy relative to textbook selection and adoption. Ms. Phillips moved to approve. Dr. Brown seconded. Mr. Barrett asked how it is different from the current policy. Dr. Gilbert said the big difference is the addition of parents with children attending Murfreesboro City Schools to the selection committee. Mr. Barrett suggested that the word "and" be changed to the word "or" on line three between grade level and subject matter fields. Mr. Barrett asked how long the review period is that is mentioned on Line 30 of the policy. Dr. Gilbert asked Karen Hawkins to give an explanation of the current textbook selection and adoption process. Ms. Hawkins indicated that the textbook adoption for this year is Math. Mr. Barrett requested that "and make the public aware of the dates when the textbooks are available for review" at the end of line 30. Following a brief explanation and answering questions, Chair Campbell asked Ms. Phillips and Dr. Brown if their respective motion and second would include the changes requested by Mr. Barrett. Ms. Phillips and Dr. Brown responded affirmatively. A unanimous vote approved the policy on first reading.

##### Revision of Murfreesboro City Code Relative to Murfreesboro City School Board

Ms. Baker presented the Board with revisions to Murfreesboro City Code Chapter 25 relative to the Murfreesboro City School Board and District for their review and consideration. Ms. Baker provided the following summary of the major revisions to Chapter 25 of the City Code:

- In Section 25-1, language was added acknowledging that the City Council may appoint a City Council member to serve as a liaison to the Board.
- In Section 25-3, the language was revised to reflect the change in the City election cycle from the third Tuesday in April to the August general election.
- Section 25-4 was revised to allow a vacancy on the Board to be filled by appointment by the City Council and such person shall hold office on an interim basis until the next election. This language is now consistent with the state law.
- Section 25-7 was revised to allow two regular Board meetings a month as previously voted upon by the Board.
- Section 25-9 was revised to state that the proposed budget shall show expenditures for the school for the ensuing fiscal year rather than calendar year.
- Sections 25-12 and 25-25 were deleted because state law covers these issues.

Once the Board approves the revisions, City Attorney Susan McGannon will present the revised code section to the City Council for their approval. Ms. Rainier moved to accept the changes, and Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

Audit Firm Consideration: Mr. Anderson explained that an audit firm for the 2014-2015 school year would need to be named. He stated that a new contract can be negotiated or the current firm can remain in place. Mr. Anderson indicated that the school system has been using Crosslin & Associates for the past eight years. He said either way, MCS does not have to get a formal bid because this is a professional service. After discussion, Mr. Barrett moved to get a new audit firm. The motion failed for lack of a second. Ms. Phillips noted that the school system has always had a clean audit. Ms. Smith moved that Mr. Anderson obtain information on a couple of other firms and their costs for comparison to Crosslin, the current firm. Ms. Rainier seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Barrett, no; Dr. Brown, aye; Chair Campbell, aye; Mr. King, aye; Ms. Philips, aye; Ms. Rainier, aye; Ms. Smith, aye.

Community Leaders Network: Ms. Trail explained that having had several requests from the Board members for a community group, invitations were sent to citizens asking them if they would be willing to participate in a network of community leaders with the purpose of creating open lines of communication between MCS and the community. Ms. Trail said there would be four meetings for the remainder of this school year. Dr. Gilbert asked Chair Campbell to appoint a board member to be a liaison between the Board and the group. Chair Campbell requested Ms. Phillips take the assignment, and Ms. Phillips accepted.

Personnel Update: No discussion was held.

Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report: Mr. Anderson directed the Board to the report reflecting a net negative income, reminding the Board that numbers are going to be negative at this time of year. Mr. Anderson reported the good news is that sales tax collections are up about \$120,000 and others up approximately \$30,000, and that property taxes will start hitting budget lines in another few months. Mr. Anderson then directed everyone to Expenditure Comparison 99100 Operating Transfers. He explained that this is a new line for the 2014-15 budget year because the City asked MCS to put this information on a separate line item. The item in the

amount is \$624,063 is the energy efficiency loans. He said there is no change, but it is separate at the City's request. Mr. Anderson said we are currently at 19% of expenditures.

Attendance Report: Mr. Anderson reported that 98% of students continue to attend schools every day and MCS continues to grow. Mr. Anderson said the pupil teacher ratio for grades K-3 is 19.40, and for grades 4-6, it is 20.81 with a total district average of 19.9. Dr. Brown noted that fourth grade at Black Fox and Overall Creek are 25 and 24 respectively. He said he knows it is difficult to hire teachers at this time of year, but he hopes we are doing things to help teachers with this. Dr. Gilbert said she has spoken with those principals and has trusted their judgment on this.

Ms. Phillips asked if our medical bus could give flu shots for employees? Mr. Anderson responded yes.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. King said he wanted to call everyone's attention to an article in the Daily News Journal about Bradley Academy noting that of all schools in the United States, only three percent (3%) have drama departments, and ours is one of them. Mr. King thanks the Daily News Journal and Mealand Ragland Hudgins for the article. Mr. King also encouraged everyone to shop in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County to add those tax dollars.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Campbell asked if there was any other business. Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn. Dr. Brown and Mr. King simultaneously seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.

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Director of Schools