

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING--
POLICY WORK SESSION
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
6:00 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Sheri Arnette, Lea Bartch, Caresa Brooks, Shavon Davis-Louis, Kim Frank, Karen Hawkins, Greg Lyles, and Lisa Trail.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker and Principal Don Bartch.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wade called the meeting to order at approximately 6 p.m.

II. BOARD POLICY REVIEW

For Discussion:

BO 49—Appointment of Board Members to Committees (*New Policy*)

Mrs. Baker provided the Board with a new version of BO 49 titled “Executive Committee.” She pointed out that this policy details the duties of the Executive Committee consisting of the Board Chair and Director of Schools in items 1-8. She stated that all of the duties set forth are in state statute, copies of which were attached. The Executive Committee consists of the Board Chair and Director of Schools, with the Board Chair being the Chair of the Executive Committee. She reviewed the duties of the Executive Committee as indicated on the proposed policy. She noted that the financial aspect of advertising for bids and letting contracts is delegated to the finance department. Mrs. Baker pointed out that at the request of Mrs. Wade, she added as number nine an additional responsibility: *To appoint Board members to various committees as the need arises.*

In response to Mrs. Smith’s questions, Mrs. Wade stated that she does perform some duties, but some are delegated to finance, checks are signed electronically, documents are

provided to her that would need her signature, and she contacts Dr. Gilbert if there is a question or she is in need of additional information. The policy as presented follows the language of the state statutes. The agenda is done as indicated. Board has input for the agenda, and the Chair is asked for approval. Mrs. Smith asked that the following be added to number nine: *...and to promptly report the appointment to the rest of the Board.* She also suggested that a number 10 be added to address communications with the Board relative to the items in this policy.

Dr. Gilbert explained that the financial report to the Board each month appears to cover most of the items in terms of Board members being notified. Mr. Anderson added that the district follows the procurement rules of the State of Tennessee and City government in bidding, advertising, etc., which the Board approves through the budget process, and the Board Chair and Director of Schools sign off by the automatic process. Mrs. Baker added that if a contract is over \$25,000, the Chair has to also sign off on the contract. If a contract is under \$25,000, the Director signs off. This procedure is in compliance with the City's procurement policies. Mrs. Smith asked that number three be reworded to: *To meet with the director of schools...* Following further discussion, Mr. Barrett requested that the Board Policies indicating that financial duties are delegated be listed as cross references.

Mrs. Phillips stated that the appointment of a board member to a committee that involved the Director of Schools could prove to create an issue if a Board member were not appointed to a committee they wished to serve on. She moved that the responsibility of appointing board members to committees be the Board Chair's with input respected and valued from the Director of Schools. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion.

Mr. Campbell stated that this is the first time the Board has seen this policy and with the attached T.C.A. information, he believes the Board should wait to address this proposed policy until they have had time to study the information. This would assure they do not take action that would conflict with that information. Mrs. Rainier asked what committees are being referenced. It was noted that the Foundation, ESP Advisory, Preschool Advisory, Family Resource Advisory, textbooks committees, and school naming committees are approved by the Board. Mrs. Phillips withdrew her motion, and Mr. Barrett as second agreed. Mrs. Baker stated that the Director would be protected under the immunity laws for the State of Tennessee for elected officials.

Mrs. Phillips asked that the Board be provided with a list of the Board members who have served on committees and the names of those committees in the past two years.

Mrs. Baker explained that the Board can add additional duties to the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee can delegate those duties to staff. Mrs. Baker

stated that she will take suggestions for the policy and bring it back to the Board at the next meeting.

PER 10—Payroll Deductions (*Proposed Revision*)

Mrs. Baker explained that she added revisions to PER 10 based on state and Federal law in lines 70-81, T.C.A. §36-5-501(i) and 15 U.S.C.A. §1674, that stipulates that an employer cannot use wage garnishment as a basis for the discharge of the employee or any disciplinary action against the employee.

~~STU 58—Interscholastic Athletics (*Proposed Revision*)~~ DELETE

This does not apply to our school district. So the existing STU 58 will be brought back to the Board for approval.

STU 63—Head Injuries (*New Policy*)

Mrs. Baker explained that STU 63 is also required by state law and is referred to by the legislature as the “concussion” law. School systems that have youth athletics must adopt a concussion policy. The state law is very specific about what the policy must include, and districts must follow the regulations that have been developed by the Tennessee Department of Health and use forms also developed by them to educate coaches and forms to use to educate parents and athletes. They also provide training documents for parents, coaches, and officials.

Mr. Campbell asked who are classified as registered officials, and does the district have someone at the games qualified to determine if a student has a concussion. Mrs. Baker replied she did not bring the state statute that constitutes what a registered official is. She can get that. He stated that he is concerned about who is going to take care of the students. Mrs. Baker stated that the officials and coaches (volunteer or paid) must go through the training, and parents must receive literature that puts them on notice of the statute, what constitutes a concussion, seeking help, etc.

In response to Mr. Barrett’s questions, Mrs. Baker stated that parents must sign the appropriate forms or the student will not be allowed to play. This also explains the liability that falls to the parents. The policy applies to volunteer as well as paid coaches. The district does not have an assigned healthcare professional at ballgames.

Dr. Gilbert asked that Board members who have questions about the sports program, email her and she will get them answers to those questions.

III. REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014 DRAFT AGENDA

Dr. Gilbert stated that in preparation for the Overall Creek report at the February 25 Board meeting, Mr. Bartch and Mrs. Trail have information to share.

Mr. Bartch reported that the school colors will be gold and purple, and they are going to be the “Otters.” Otters like a clean environment, clean water, etc., so will fit well with the school’s initiative. Mrs. Trail shared the logo in several forms, and provided the Board with an Overall Creek t-shirt.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:54 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

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