

MINUTES  
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
Tuesday, February 25, 2014  
6:00 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Sheri Arnette, Lea Bartch, Dan Boshers, Caresa Brooks, Karen Hawkins, Greg Lyles, Joe Marlin, Lisa Trail, Amanda Parks, Ralph Ringstaff, Dianne Click, Gretchen Campbell, Cathrine Gordon, Sandy Scheele, and Crystal Farris.

Others: Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, Principals Robin Newell, Regina Payne, and Don Bartch and Assistant Principal Beth Swain.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Announcement of School and System Teachers of the Year (Program sponsored by the Council of Chief State Officers) (See Attached List) A recognition celebration will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 4:30-6:00 p.m., at Oaklands Mansion
- National School Nutrition Week—March 3-7, 2014
- Read Across America—Dr. Seuss's Day, March 2
- Mass Choir, Thursday, March 6, 2014, 7 p.m. at Erma Siegel
- Read to Succeed Family Fun Night, Thursday, March 27, 2014 at Cason Lane
- The City Hall Art Show will take place on April 10, 2014
- Mitchell-Neilson thanks David and Stacey Owen for their \$400 donation.
- Target in partnership with First Book has selected Hobgood to receive a \$500 award for the Books for School Program.
- Macon Music will be held on Thursday at Bradley at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. with the theme: *Crossovers Years—1960's*

- Acknowledgements by Dr. Gilbert
- The Board recognized Linda Ridley for her dedication to the Board and district during her years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

#### IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

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

- A. Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of January 28, 2014, and the February 11, 2014 Special Called Board Meeting—Policy Work Session.
- B. School Fees

#### V: ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Board Policies (First Reading) (Tab 2)

BO 49—Executive Committee (New Policy) **OR**  
BO 49—Appointment of Board Members to Committees and BO 50  
Executive Committee (New Policies)

Ms. Baker read two proposed options to address the appointment of Board members to committees. BO 49—Executive Committee states that the responsibility is that of the Executive Committee which is comprised of the Board Chair and the Director of Schools. BO 49—Appointment of Board Members to Committees stipulates that the Board Chair has the authority to appoint Board members to committees. BO 50—Executive Committee states the responsibilities of the Board Chair and Director according to state statutes. Following discussion, Ms. Smith suggested that BO 49—Appointment of Board Members to Committees state that the Board Chair would solicit input from the Director.

Mr. Barrett made a motion to approve BO 49—Appointment of Board Members to Committees with Ms. Smith’s recommended revision and BO 50—Executive Committee. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. On roll call: Barrett—yes; Brown—yes; Campbell—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Smith—yes; Wade--yes. The motion carried.

PER 10—Payroll Deductions (Proposed Revision)

Ms. Baker introduced PER 10 regarding payroll deductions. The proposed revision brings MCS policy current with state and federal law regarding treatment of payroll

deductions that involve garnishments, lines 70-76. An employer cannot discipline or terminate an employee due to garnishment of wages.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the policy as presented, and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

STU 63—Head Injuries (New Policy)

Ms. Baker introduced STU 63 regarding head injuries which is a new policy. This stems from new state law enacted relative to student head injuries/concussions during athletic events. This policy is mandated by state law providing procedures for training athletic personnel and volunteers for the handling of head injuries and procedures for student participation following a head injury. All forms required are provided by the state and have been supplied to MCS. Mr. Ringstaff stated that he would forward to the Board the website where the training and forms are located.

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the new policy with Mr. Barrett seconding the motion which carried by acclamation.

STU 58—Interscholastic Athletics (No Revision)

Ms. Baker reported there are no changes to the policy STU 58, but it is presented for annual review and consideration.

Ms. Smith moved to approve STU 58 as presented, and Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

B. Approval to Identify Mitchell-Neilson Elementary and Primary as One School—Mitchell Neilson School (Tab 3)

Dr. Gilbert and Principal Robin Newell made a short presentation to the Board regarding combining the names for the two Mitchell-Neilson schools to Mitchell-Neilson School. Dr. Gilbert explained the need due to funding issues involving Title funds, the linking together on state assessment, software licensing and more importantly for students to feel as one school. MCS and MTSU will collaborate making Mitchell-Neilson a leadership school focusing on recognizing talents and gifts within each child. Dr. Gilbert and Principal Newell visited a model school in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and made a brief PowerPoint presentation of their findings.

Ms. Rainier moved to identify Mitchell-Neilson Primary and Elementary as the Mitchell-Neilson School. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion which carried by acclamation.

C. Approval to Rename The Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers to: *The Discovery School*

Ms. Smith stated she was fully supportive of the proposed renaming of The Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers to *The Discovery School* and moved to approve the action. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

D. Identify the preschool program as: *The Ruth Bowdoin Preschool Program*

Dr. Gilbert introduced the proposal to identify the preschool program as *The Ruth Bowdoin Preschool Program* as it was formerly known. Since the preschool program is leaving Bellwood and going into various schools within the District, Dr. Gilbert recommended this program return to its original name in recognition of Ruth Bowdoin.

Dr. Brown motioned to approve the district's preschool program be known as *The Ruth Bowdoin Preschool*, and Ms. Smith seconded. The motion carried by acclamation.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Overall Creek Update—Don Bartch and Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters

Don Bartch introduced Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters to the Board as heading up the Center for Environmental Studies at MTSU and being a collaborative partner for the new Overall Creek Elementary School. Mr. Bartch presented a PowerPoint to the Board displaying an aerial view of the construction site with proposed ideas for how the surrounding grounds will be used as outdoor classrooms. Dr. Smith-Walters said the concept is relatively new, but data show that students learn better if they do not just read but actually experience the learning, combining the linguistic learning with non-linguistic learning out of doors.

Ms. Phillips commented that one thing she would like to see MCS do as a system is commit to the maintenance of these outdoor places, to renewing those sites we already have and embrace these ideas.

Mr. Barrett said he is pleased to see yet another collaboration between MTSU and MCS.

Dr. Brown stated that it is interesting that we have seen two different presentations about children learning for the joy of learning, without the focus being on testing.

B. Technology Update—Dan Boshers and Karen Hawkins

Mr. Boshers announced that, as of today, 85% of the system infrastructure has been upgraded. He added that a total of 145 terabytes of storage has been added for security cameras and a case management system added to manage iPads and laptops to keep track of assets were they to be used in other locations. Ms. Hawkins reported that several teacher trainings have already taken place including after school, during the school day, and during student half days. She added that March 6<sup>th</sup> will be a software training day for resource teachers.

C. Extended School Program Update (Tab 4)

Mr. Ringstaff presented the District's Extended School Program (ESP) team to give an ESP update to the Board.

Amanda Parks gave a short PowerPoint presentation displaying the new ESP logo this year to promote and highlight the many activities provided by ESP to the students. The new logo is intended to allow the public to see what is being offered to children who participate in the program. Dianne Click reported a 2,215-student enrollment increase which is a 63% growth since the 2011-2012 school year. She stated ESP has expanded class offerings with 900 enrichments and with plans to continue the expansion. Site directors have been made full time giving them time to collaborate with teachers and principals. Gretchen Campbell reported on funding for ESP naming two primary grants which serve the students. As a result of these, at-risk students receive homework assistance and school tutoring. There is a 35% student body enrollment in ESP and 131 students attend the program as a result of the state lottery scholarship. Ms. Campbell reported that, for schools not covered under the grants, MCS provides scholarship assistance to meet the needs of all students in Murfreesboro City Schools.

D. Personnel Update (Tab 5)

E. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 6)

Mr. Anderson reported that MCS is on its anticipated target taking into consideration that money was paid up front for the technology, but reimbursement is starting to come in for that expenditure. Mr. Anderson reported that utilities have increased due to the colder winter this year compared to the previous year, adding that this could be an issue moving forward but hoping for much milder weather.

F. Attendance Report (Tab 7)

Mr. Anderson reported that enrollment is holding but anticipates growth when the new school is open. Attendance for December and January was at 95% which is still excellent for that time of year.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Wade reminded the Board members of the upcoming Board retreat and asked that members send topics to Dr. Gilbert so she can assemble the necessary information. Mr. Barrett announced that he is the proud parent of two baby girls who arrived February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Wade addressed Board Secretary Linda Ridley upon her retirement and this being her last board meeting, thanked her for being a mentor to the Board, a friend, and a wealth of knowledge adding, with thanks, that she will be missed.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wade entertained a motion to adjourn by Nancy Phillips, seconded by Mr. Barrett. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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Director of Schools

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