

MINUTES
MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, August 26, 2014
6:00 p.m.—Council Chambers, City Hall

ATTENDANCE:

Chair Butch Campbell, Vice Chair Nancy Rainier, Jared Barrett, Nancy Phillips, Collier Smith, Phil King

Liaison Ron Washington, City Attorney Kelley Baker, City Council Member Madelyn Scales Harris

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Ralph Ringstaff, Shavon Davis-Louis, Dr. Caresa Brooks, Joe Marlin, Karen Hawkins, Kim Frank, Lea Bartch, Robin Newell, Peggy Currier, Denise Combaugh, Carissa Chrisman, Sheri Arnette, Sharron Hawks

Others: Lily Arkenberg, Charlie Arkenberg, Mark Tate, Zayne Long

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

- Pledge of Allegiance, Mitchell-Neilson's Leader in Me:
 - Lily Arkenberg, Mrs. Crumbaugh's second grade
 - Charlie Arkenberg, Mrs. Crumbaugh's second grade
 - Mark Tate, Mrs. Currier's second grade
 - Zayne Long, Mrs. McCullough's fifth grade
- Moment of Silence

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rainier moved to approve. Mr. Barrett seconded.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gilbert read the following communications:

- Murfreesboro City, in partnership with MTSU, has been awarded an MSP Mini-grant (for math and science professional development) from the Tennessee Department of Education in the amount of \$61,840.
- MCS has been asked to present at the Superintendents' Study Council.
- MCS Outreach Department thanked the following community partners for their participation in National Night Out at Franklin Heights on August 5, 2014:
 - Linebaugh Library
 - Mobile Health Unit/St. Thomas Rutherford

- Greenhouse Ministries
 - Barnabas Vision
 - Read to Succeed
 - Hope Clinic
 - DARE Officers
 - Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue
 - Linda Root
 - Tennessee Center for Applied Technology
 - Target Department Store, Murfreesboro
- Bradley Academy received a \$2,000 Arts Building Communities (ABC) grant, which will provide students involved in Bradley Academy Musical Theatre with transportation and technical theatre education.
 - ESP has been awarded a LEAP (Literacy and Education in Action Program) Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for afterschool activities.
 - ESP has been awarded a 21st CCLC grant in the amount of \$246,200, also for afterschool activities.
 - Northfield sixth grade teacher Billie Jo Thompson has been awarded \$1,020 through a mini-grant from the Tennessee STEM Leadership Academy for Engineering is Elementary materials.
 - MCS Outreach Department expressed appreciation to:
 - Mitchell Bowman – Michael’s Homes – \$100 Franklin Heights National Night Out
 - Murfreesboro Lioness Club – Backpack Food Program
 - Peggy and Tim Seneker - \$100 G.E.M.S. Camp
 - Advance Financial - \$400 G.E.M.S. Camp
 - Krista Phillips - \$100 Franklin Heights
 - Mitchell-Neilson School thanked Third Baptist Church (3BC), for hosting the Sixth Annual Back-to-School Luncheon for MNS faculty and staff, and for providing over 140 supply-filled backpacks.
 - Mitchell-Neilson School thanked St. Paul’s Episcopal Church for their generous donation of backpacks and school supplies.
 - Mitchell-Neilson School thanked Calvary Baptist Church for their generous donation to help purchase uniforms and school supplies.
 - Mitchell-Neilson School thanked Bob Parks Realty for donating supply bags to every teacher in the school.
 - The City Schools Foundation invites you to Foundation & Fashions on Thursday, September 11, 2014, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at Stones River Country Club.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Minutes:

- a. June 24, 2014 Meeting
- b. June 30, 2014 Board Retreat

B. Approval of School Fees

C. Approval of Board Policies (*Second Reading*)

SS 12 – Student Fees and Fines (*Review*)

STU 17 – Name on Pupil Records (*Review*)

D. The City Schools Foundation recommends the addition of Jeannie Almon, State Farm, and Dr. Joseph Faiz, Children’s Dentistry of Murfreesboro to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the consent items. Mr. King seconded, and the motion carried.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Tenure Recommendations

Dr. Gilbert stated that due to a change in state law, for tenure consideration, teachers had to have five years of teaching instead of three. There were also performance connections added. Mr. Campbell asked that those teachers on the list for tenure who were in attendance to stand and be recognized. Ms. Rainier moved to approve the tenure list. Ms. Smith seconded, and the motion carried. Chair Campbell congratulated the group, and encouraged teachers to attend the Board meetings.

B. Discussion of Director’s Evaluation Instrument and Timeline

Dr. Gilbert introduced Randall Bennett from the Tennessee School Board Association (TSBA). Mr. Bennett provided the Board with a copy of the director’s evaluation instrument reminding the Board they do not have to complete the instrument, but wanted them to be able to see the information. He said the goal is to have the proper forms complete and back to the TSBA by September 12th for review during the School Board meeting of September 23rd. Discussion was held over the point scale. Dr. Gilbert expressed that she thinks her evaluation instrument should be on the same scale as the rankings for principals and teachers. Ms. Rainier said she thinks that is a good faith gesture for Dr. Gilbert to show that she is held to the same standards as the teachers and principals. Mr. Barrett moved to change the instrument from a 4-point to a 5-point scale, to have the instrument returned to TSBA no later than September 16th, and for TSBA to be back on September 23rd to report the findings. Mr. King seconded, and the motion carried.

C. Budget Amendments

Mr. Anderson presented budget amendments involving expenditures such as the need to hire part-time bus drivers as full time because anyone who works 30 hours or more is considered full time under the Affordable Care Act. He said 22 teachers were added to meet the MCS and State Standards and their associated benefits. Mr. Anderson explained that City Council has asked MCS to present the amendments more frequently to keep them (City Council) apprised of what is going on. Mr. Anderson added that this is the most the District has grown in any one year at five percent (5%) and that, or course, teachers must be hired. He said the issue is that there is no more money from the State until January. Ms. Smith expressed concern over the Fund balance.

Chair Campbell stated that growth creates a problem, but it is a compliment to our school system if students are coming from other districts to our system. Ms. Rainier moved to use money from the Fund balance. Mr. Barrett seconded, and the motion carried.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Discussion of Professional Days

After Dr. Gilbert gave a brief description of the use of professional days, Chair Campbell reviewed that the professional day is provided for professional development, but that the personal days can be used by employees with no reason required.

B. Gifted Update

Dr. Gilbert introduced Lea Bartch to speak on the gifted program. Ms. Bartch thanked the Board for supporting the learning of all students. She stated that teachers are becoming more familiar with the needs of gifted learners and more professional development is being offered. She stated that 25 teachers over the last two years have become certified as gifted teachers at Vanderbilt University, and that 11 teachers attended the National Association for Gifted Conference last year. Ms. Bartch said that 110-130 students have been identified as gifted, but students are still registering.

C. School Climate Update

Dr. Gilbert introduced Kim Frank to speak on the bullying prevention initiative. Ms. Frank gave a brief but detailed report on the Olweus Bullying Preventions Program, and how MCS has partnered with MTSU and the Tennessee Department of Education to implement the program in the district. Ms. Frank told the Board that Channel 5 News came to Cason Lane Academy and interviewed Principal Wilkerson and others regarding the program.

D. Construction Update

Mr. Anderson reported that we are at the end of construction projects, and thanked the Board for attending the Overall Creek ribbon-cutting ceremony. He reported that bids are being handled for the resurfacing of Discovery School tennis courts, but that all other construction projects have been completed.

E. Transportation Update

Mr. Anderson reported there were 6,730 requests for people to ride buses. He said the new law allows buses to stay in service a little longer which kept three MCS buses from expiring and allowed one to be brought back. He told the Board there have been some issues with the length of time of the bus routes, but that routes are being established. He also said some drivers are leaving, and it takes the state four weeks to test new drivers. He added that some office staff are certified drivers, and are driving buses. He also stated that because buses had to be added to schools, routes had to be redone as well. Mr. Anderson said the greatest issue has been timing. While the State allows one and one-half hours each way, the district is accustomed to 30 minutes. There was some discussion about buses, routes, and timing. Ms. Smith said she heard

very nice compliments about our bus drivers. Ms. Phillips, encouraged anyone who wants to drive a bus to apply, adding that more students could walk to school if more sidewalks are built.

F. Personnel Update

Dr. Gilbert asked the Board to review the report, and stated she would answer questions at a later date if they have any.

E. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson gave the Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report, stating that revenue from property and sales taxes were slightly higher. He said there were areas on the expenditure side where we were able to conserve money, stating that this is the report that will go to the auditors.

F. Attendance Report

Mr. Anderson provided an updated attendance report from the one in the Board packet because 20 children were added since the prior report. He reported that Scales has removed the portable buildings. Mr. Anderson reported that MCS has 7,926 students. Discussion was held about zoning, numbers in classrooms, and pupil/teacher ratio. Mr. Anderson advised that continued growth is expected but difficult to project.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Gilbert recommended Karen Hawkins as the person over textbooks. Ms. Phillips stated she would like an update on new computers, testing, and training for kids. Ms. Rainier requested that Ms. Davis-Louis provide a list of tests that would be given throughout the school year as has been done in the past. Ms. Davis-Louis said she will be happy to and reminded the Board that those test are listed on the city schools website per state law. Ms. Smith stated she would like a review of NWEA. Mr. Barrett said he would like an update on a joint meeting or some sort of meeting with the legislative body. Ms. Rainier thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their work on the tennis courts.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. King seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Director of Schools