

MINUTES

Murfreesboro City School Board
6 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2015
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE:

School Board: Chair Butch Campbell, Vice Chair Nancy Rainier, Jared Barrett, Phil King, Collier Smith, and Nancy Phillips

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Karen Hawkins, Lisa Trail, Caresa Brooks, Kim Frank, Greg Lyles, Meri-Leigh Smith, Sheri Arnette, Shavon Davis-Louis, Tammy Garrett, Kim Fowler, Laurie Offutt, and Kelly Jones

Staff Attorney Kelley Baker

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Campbell and was immediately followed by a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the agenda, and Mr. King seconded. The motion carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gilbert read the following communications:

TSBA announced that Governor Bill Haslam has declared January 25-31, 2015, to be School Board Appreciation Week in the state of Tennessee.

Mitchell-Neilson Schools would like to thank Ginger and Danny Demombreun and Sinking Creek Farms for their generous donations and support of the MNS Gardening Club. They have been teaching the children about organic farming, beekeeping, and composting. They donated the first MNS compost bin and specially designed t-shirts for all club members!

Mitchell-Neilson Schools would like to thank MTSU Professor Dr. Rick Cottle and his Textile Merchandising students from our partners at the College of Behavior and Health Sciences for their generous support of our Beauty Inside and Out Club. They have been teaching the students about fashion, body image, photo shop, and have taught them how to make scarves.

Mitchell-Neilson Schools would like to thank Stones River Baptist Church for their generous donation to their field trip fund.

The Discovery School at Bellwood was the only elementary school to compete in the BEST Robotics Competition at Lipscomb University taking second place overall as well as in the categories of Best Webpage and Best Middle School. They followed this accomplishment with wins at the Regional Auburn competition by placing third in the category of Project Engineering Notebook and gained a spot as the only elementary school to place in the top 15 by winning 12th BEST Overall. Congratulations Discovery School!

Hobgood Elementary would like to thank the Price Foundation for donating toys and toy chests to Hobgood students.

Last month, five MCS teachers received mini-grants from the BEP Foundation:
Debbie Hickerson, Cason Lane Academy, *Locally Grown Space Food*
Stacey Burt, Discovery School, *Programming is Play*
Luke Dickerson, Northfield, *Better Bees-ness*
Shannon Harvey, Reeves-Rogers, *Moss Art: Living Art Wall*
Shannon Minner, Reeves-Rogers, *Invent to Learn: Makerspace Science*

Thursday, January 29 at 4 p.m. Patterson Park Community Center is celebrating the art, cuisine, and culture of our African American community with a program and activities.

Director of Communications Lisa Trail announced The City Schools Foundation Excellence in Education Celebration Gala honoring Jeanne and Tommy Bragg with Featured School Mitchell-Neilson School will be held on Friday, February 6, 2015, at 7 p.m. at Stones River Country Club. This year is Mitchell-Neilson Primary's 50th anniversary. The Gala is one of two major fundraising events for The City Schools Foundation.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: November 18, 2014
Approval of School Fees

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the consent items, and Ms. Smith seconded. The motion carried.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Insurance Update:

Mr. Anderson explained the State Board's rule requiring LEAs to contribute at least 45% of all medical insurance plans, and that because of the new cycle of insurance that began January 2015; there are two categories that require adjustments. Those categories are employee plus spouse and family coverage positively impacting 110 employees by reducing the amount they have to contribute to their insurance coverage costs. The increased contribution amount is estimated at \$96,760 for the remainder of this fiscal year. Mr. Anderson recommended the cost be borne by the existing fund balance, with the amount for next year's district contribution to be included in the 2015-2016 general purpose-operating budget.

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the coverage noting that the Board is glad to help out teachers and their families. Mr. King seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

EESI Proposal:

Mr. Anderson introduced David Rehse of Energy Systems Group and Lyle Lynch of Johnson and Bailey Architects as part of team that is assisting MCS with the EESI proposal. He explained that the State of Tennessee EESI Program has made available interest free loans to do energy efficiency upgrades in the schools. Mr. Anderson explained that, as in past EESI projects, the savings from the projects pays for the annual cost of the repayment of the loan. He said while some projects may not be approved at this time, the proposal gives a road map of where we intend to go in future EESI loan program opportunities. Mr. Anderson asked the Board for approval to submit the loan application and supporting documents to the State for their consideration.

After some discussion, Mr. Barrett moved the Board approve, and Ms. Rainier seconded. Chair Campbell requested a roll call vote.

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| Mr. Barrett: | <u>Yes.</u> | Chair Campbell: | <u>Yes.</u> | Mr. King: | <u>Yes.</u> |
| Ms. Phillips: | <u>Yes.</u> | Ms. Rainier: | <u>Yes.</u> | Ms. Smith: | <u>Yes.</u> |

Roll call vote; all approved.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Mr. Anderson explained the proposals before the Board are for expansions to Hobgood and Black Fox be included in the capital improvement plan. Another addition to Hobgood adding ten (10) classrooms, another gymnasium, music rooms, then add 200 students to the capacity of the school would accommodate needed school space on that side of town. The second proposed expansion is for Black Fox, which was originally designed to accommodate 1,000 students, but the law changed lowering the capacity of the school. The new proposal would bring the number of classrooms back to meet the 1,000-student core ability. Mr. Anderson drew the Board's attention to the attendance report reflecting 8056 students as an indicator that the city is growing. In addition, Mr. Anderson said the City is looking at the 2035 plans, which shows so much growth that we need to start planning now noting that growth is coming from multiple areas of the city. He said this need to be added to the district's capital outlay plan then it can be taken to the City to be added to their capital outlay plan.

Mr. Barrett moved the proposed expansions be included in the capital improvement plan, and Mr. King seconded the motion. Following discussion, Chair Campbell requested the vote by roll call.

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| Mr. King: | <u>Yes.</u> | Ms. Phillips: | <u>Yes.</u> | Ms. Rainier: | <u>Yes.</u> |
| Ms. Smith: | <u>Yes.</u> | Mr. Barrett: | <u>Yes.</u> | Chair Campbell: | <u>Yes.</u> |

Roll call vote; all approved.

Approval of Revised 2015-2016 School Calendar:

Dr. Gilbert noted the revision to the calendar of MCS being closed on March 1, 2016 for the presidential primary election pushing the last day of school for students to May 26, 2016. She noted that Rutherford County Schools also revised their calendar to close schools on March 1, 2016, so the calendars align very well.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. After some discussion, Chair Campbell requested the vote by roll call.

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| Ms. Phillips: | <u>Yes.</u> | Ms. Rainier: | <u>Yes.</u> | Ms. Smith: | <u>Yes.</u> |
| Mr. Barrett: | <u>Yes.</u> | Chair Campbell: | <u>Yes.</u> | Mr. King: | <u>Yes.</u> |

Roll call vote; all approved.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

Revision to Murfreesboro City Code Relative to Schools:

Ms. Baker explained the revision to Murfreesboro City Code passed all requirements and is now effective with the significance being that the Board now has two regular meetings per month and the date for elections was revised to correspond to a change with City Council elections. This means the election for Board members will coincide with the August General Election.

Farm-to-School Grant:

Coordinated School Health Supervisor Meri-Leigh Smith presented a report on the Farm-to-School Grant stating that MCS was the only recipient of this grant in the State of Tennessee. She said, through this grant, MCS will identify locally and regionally produced food, increase the nutritional value of school meals, and support local and regional farmers. In addition, Ms. Smith said MCS would receive equipment that allows us to serve fresh food from farm to table. She stated they will work with instruction for cross-curricular activities, maintain on-site raised bed gardens, and that one pilot site (Overall Creek) will begin the project as soon as next month. Ms. Smith said she hoped to secure the farmer-educator contract by end of month.

Budget Development Timeline:

Mr. Anderson explained that the Budget Development Timeline for 2015-2016 was before the Board, with a proposed time slot of April 2-13 for the Board to have budget work sessions. After discussion and several Board members recalling the budget work sessions for the current fiscal year, Ms. Phillips requested Mr. Anderson move the Budget Timeline back by two weeks to allow the Board more time. Mr. Anderson said he would rework the Timeline and bring it back before the Board.

Personnel Update and Attendance Report:

Dr. Gilbert noted the personnel update was there for the Board's review, and that the attendance report was covered in earlier discussions regarding the capital improvement plan.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Campbell asked if there was other business before the Board. Ms. Phillips said she is not getting the list of activities that are going on in the school system. Dr. Gilbert said she would follow up to make sure those are sent.

Chair Campbell reminded the Board the next meeting is January 27th with a Retreat to begin at 3 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room at City Hall. He said the Board could expect to have a meal following the Retreat before the regular Board meeting, which begins at 6 p.m.

Chair Campbell asked Board members to go on the website to look at the NSBA Conference agenda to see whether or not it is cost effective for members to attend. He advised Board members that if they would like to attend to contact Ms. Price for registration.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Director of Schools