

**MINUTES**  
Murfreesboro City School Board  
6 p.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2015  
Council Chambers

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**ATTENDANCE**

School Board: Chair Butch Campbell, Phil King, Nancy Philips, Collier Smith, and Jared Barrett

Staff: Greg Lyles, Shavon Davis-Louis, Karen Hawkins, Caresa Dodson, Lea Bartz, Linda Gilbert, Ralph Ringstaff, Sheri Arnette, Lisa Trail, Pam Holden, Gene Loyd, Stacey Burt, Jenny Ortiz, Kim Fowler, Mary Allen

Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, Council Liaison Ron Washington

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Campbell opened the meeting by welcoming students to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Stacey Burt introduced Discovery School at Bellwood student Addie Burt, Siegel High School Student Olivia Richie, and Siegel Middle School Student Zoe Chavis to lead the Pledge, which was immediately followed by a moment of silence.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Campbell asked for an approval of the agenda. Mr. King moved to approve, and Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. All approved.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Discovery School at Bellwood presents information on their robotics program.

Dr. Burt said the robotics program started 11 years ago after a child came to her and said she would never guess what he did that weekend, which was build a robotic arm. She said the robotics program is six weeks long with over 150 hours after school. She said students are given materials, they go through the design process, they market the invention, sell it, present it to judges, participate in an interview, create a web page, and compete in the robotics competition. She said that no one is turned away from the program, and there are no tryouts. Dr. Burt said even if the student goes on to another school, they can return to this team. She said Olivia and Zoe have both returned to the program after going on to middle and high school. In the competition, Dr. Burt said Discovery's team came in second overall, and won the category of Best Middle School even though they are elementary students. She said the group also won Best

Web Page category. Regionally, Dr. Burt said Discovery placed 12<sup>th</sup> out of 56 teams. She said the Project Engineering Notebook carried the largest amount of points in overall scores, and Discovery's team came in third, beat only by two high schools. Miss Richie (Olivia) said she has been on the robotics team for six years now. She said the program opened her eyes to how much she loves math and science. She said she is still learning, but for her it is more mentoring other students now. Miss Chavis (Zoe) said this is her third year to come back to the program. She said she was hesitant when she joined the team because of the math and science part of it, but decided to do it because of the robotics. As a result, Miss Chavis said it has helped her to decide her career path. Ms. Allen, who is an art teacher at Discovery, explained that the team must produce a major design logo and marketing theme for the exhibit. Ms. Allen said that when Discovery entered the competition with their marketing theme, it caused the judges to reconsider and raise the number of points given to that aspect of the competition. She said the students brainstorm, using art, science, and math, and it is very active learning.

Mentor Beth Warren said this is her first year to participate and she assisted with the marketing and web page, by consulting with logistics experts on business cards, the budget, and a mission statement. Mentor Mike Chavis expressed the excitement he feels every year when it is robotics time rolls around. He said he started three years ago after he and his daughter built a bridge for a project that was supposed to resist earthquakes. He said he has somewhat of a missionary heart, and likes to share the things he has learned especially with students. Mr. Chavis said he believes this is the most exciting, enriching, dynamic program in the school system, and he is proud to be a part of it. He added that this program gives a place for non-lineal thinkers to hone skills. He said some student may not do well in school because of the way they think. He said they may come up with ideas but not know how or where to apply them. He said the robotics program allows students to do this in a non-threatening atmosphere, and it allows students to see how ideas develop in their minds. Mr. Chavis said he is involved in the program because it shows alternative pathways to knowledge. Ms. Phillips thanked them for their hard work expressing that it could not be done without their passion, dedication, and excitement. Ms. Smith thanked them for their participation and dedication. Chair Campbell said he is really impressed with those who are not at Discovery School coming back to participate in the robotics team.

Dr. Gilbert congratulated Teachers of the Year:

Black Fox:	Meredith Patrum	Kim Margetjak
Northfield:	Lori Hollis	Tammy Sutton
John Pittard:	Alisha Herbison	Bethany Jackson
Hobgood:	Martin Ridgley	Amanda Counts
Cason Lane:	Angela Lee Pitts	Amy Miller
Scales:	Richard Alexander	Lynn Lawson
Overall Creek:	Ben White	Rebecca Sublett
Mitchell-Neilson:	Denise Crumbaugh	Alison Murphy
Reeves-Rogers:	Susan Heiser	Noelle Koenig
Bradley:	Jessica Peterson	Kelly Jones
Erma Siegel:	Jill Taylor	Tracy Harris
Discovery:	Shea Payne	Melissa Carnes

### District Level Teachers of the Year

Reeves-Rogers: Dr. Susan Heiser, Physical Education  
Hobgood: Mr. Martin Ridgley, First Grade

Dr. Gilbert announced that Community Outreach would like to thank Coach Whit Turnbow and the MTSU community for efforts in providing winter coats for our students. Community Outreach also thanks Mulligan Ministries (Whit & Lori Turnbow) for their donation of \$1,250 to MCS' Indigent Fund. Chair Campbell commended Whit Turnbow for seeing the need in the community and starting this program.

Dr. Gilbert announced that Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank James and Amy Farrar for their generous donation to the Archery Club.

### IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: January 27, 2015 Regular Meeting

Minutes: January 27, 2015 Board Retreat

Approval of School Fees

Ms. Smith said she communicated with Ms. Price that she had an addition to the Retreat Minutes regarding transportation for Discovery School. Ms. Phillips said she, too, communicated an addition to that portion of the Retreat Minutes. Mr. King moved to approve the consent items with the revisions to the Retreat Minutes. Ms. Smith seconded the motion, and all approved.

### V. ACTION ITEMS

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Anderson explained the first item is the addition to Hobgood adding 10 classrooms, a new gymnasium, a music room, public restrooms, and additional parking. He said the second item is the Bradley expansion. He said there is one restroom with one stall off of the dining room, and the renovations would make it a real public restrooms facility in that area. Mr. Anderson said the original blue print contained a knockout wall. He said by removing that wall, the dining room could be expanded allowing an additional 42 students. He explained the area would be stage height, and he will be meeting with engineers. Ms. Phillips asked Mr. Anderson how many years it has been since an expansion at Hobgood. Mr. Anderson said that two years ago the front of the school was expanded, and the year before that four classrooms were added. He said this would be phase three of that plan. Ms. Phillips asked if he had spoken to City Hall about funding. Mr. Anderson said yes, and it is before the Board for approval tonight. Mr. King said the school is presently at 450 students, and how many would it be with the expansion. Mr. Anderson said 650 to 700 with this plan. Mr. Washington expressed it would be a good idea to move forward on this.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the plan. Mr. King seconded the motion, and all approved.

#### Approval of Architectural Services

Mr. Anderson said the next item before the Board is the approval of using Johnston & Bailey Architects for the building projects not to exceed \$300,000.

Ms. Smith moved to approve. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. All approved.

#### School Nutrition Budget Amendment

Mr. Anderson said this item is on the agenda because the City auditor has asked MCS to bring amendment items before the Board as they come in rather than wait until the end of the year. He said the original budget did not approve for Community Eligibility. The difference in revenue is offsetting expenditures. He explained that it is basically in and out and getting budget numbers where they fit. Ms. Phillips asked Mr. Anderson to share information about the Community Eligibility Program. Mr. Anderson said it is part of USDA, which means all our students can get a lunch and breakfast without cost to the student. He said the action required by the Board this evening is to approve the adjustment to the budget.

Ms. Phillips moved to approve the adjustment. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion, and all approved.

#### Auditor Contract Approval

Mr. Anderson said that a request for proposal was sent, per the Board's request, to a dozen companies. He received five responses. He said the finance department received bids, and three of the five are recommended for the Board's consideration. He said the handout gives an analysis of the high points, and the finance department is fine with any route the Board takes. Collier Smith moved to accept Matlock Clements proposal and Jared Barrett seconded the motion. After some discussion, Chair Campbell requested a roll call vote.

Mr. Barrett: Yes.      Mr. King: Yes.      Ms. Phillips: Yes.  
Ms. Smith: Yes.      Chair Campbell: Yes.

Roll call vote; all approved.

#### Extension of Pre-School Consultant Contract

Dr. Gilbert explained this item is a request to extend the contract of the preschool consultant to allow Ms. Schmidt to complete the year. She said the District is still facing pre-K registration, placement, and classroom set-up. She said the request before the Board is to extend the contract up to an additional \$9,975 to get through June.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the extension, and Mr. King seconded the motion. After discussion, Chair Campbell called for a roll call vote.

Mr. King: Yes. Ms. Phillips: Yes.  
Ms. Smith: Yes. Mr. Barrett: Yes. Chair Campbell: Yes.

Roll call vote; all approved.

## VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

### Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson gave details about the Revenue and Expenditure Report explaining that the District is in the black at this point. He said actual sales tax is up \$323,000, and property tax numbers are down slightly. On the expenditure side, Mr. Anderson said nothing jumps off the page except an increase in capital outlay as a result of work that was approved last year but was not completed until this year. Mr. Anderson said the District is in good shape compared to last year.

### Personnel Update

No discussion.

### Attendance (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson explained that the period does not close for another two days so this report is the same one as last month. He advised he can email the new one after the period closes or include it in next month's business. He noted that attendance is good, and the total enrollment is at 8,049—an increase of over 500 students from last year.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Smith commended Dr. Gilbert for making the call early for schools to be closed for inclement weather. She said conditions were right for students to be out, and not be waiting for buses at stops. She said she was a little concerned about students who rely on schools for food. Dr. Gilbert asked Mr. Lyles to address this issue. Mr. Lyles said the backpack program partners with Second Harvest Food Bank and even on breaks and long weekends food is sent to ESP sites that are open. He said those bags are available for any students who may need them. He said that Olive Branch Church said they were willing to go out with their van and take food, and Greenhouse Ministries distributed food during that time. He added that we always send food out to ESP sites on breaks. Mr. Lyles said that Club Yes delivered food to hotel and motel sites as well.

Chair Campbell asked if there were any maintenance problems as a result of the weather. Dr. Gilbert commended the maintenance department for all their hard work keeping parking lots,

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Recorded by M. Price

sidewalks, ramps, etc. salted and cleared. Mr. Anderson said three HVAC units froze at Hobgood, but it appears they were low on refrigerant. He said that every school bus started, which was great after being off a week. He explained that every bus is hooked up to an electric engine to warm them, and mechanics start the buses to warm them before kids have to get on them.

Chair Campbell asked the Board to pay attention to two bills, SB128 and SB328. He said one deals with energy efficiency EESI, and would take public dollars for that and divert to charter schools and voucher schools. He said SB 328 deals with the ability for us to charge people for copies and time particularly when people come in from companies and ask for information. He said he encourages the Board to look at those bills and contact the appropriate legislators.

Chair Campbell offered condolences on behalf of the Board to Mr. King in the passing of his mother.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Phillips moved to adjourn, and Mr. Barrett seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 p.m.

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Director of Schools