

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

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Greg Lyles, Shavon Davis-Louis, Karen Hawkins, Caresa Dodson, Lea Bartch, Linda Gilbert, Ralph Ringstaff, Sheri Arnette, Pam Holden, Micky Brooks, Trent Cheeves, Kim Frank, Laurie Offutt, Kim Margetjak, and Jessica Codispoti

Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, Council Liaison Ron Washington

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order. Sarah Gwen Arnold, third grade student at Black Fox, along with Black Fox teachers Kim Margetjak and Jessica Codispoti, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was immediately followed by a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Brown seconded the motion, and all approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Instructional Technology Information and Presentation

Ms. Hawkins and Mr. Cheeves thanked the Board and City Council for providing technology to MCS students. Mr. Cheeves introduced Ms. Codispoti and Ms. Margetjak who said there was some technology integration professional development this past year. Ms. Codispoti attended trainings then invited Mr. Cheeves to come into the classroom to talk about Internet safety and research. Ms. Codispoti then assigned projects to the students. Mr. Cheeves introduced Miss Arnold to discuss her project. Miss Arnold said she went onto many different web sites to figure out exactly how to do it correctly and to find information. Miss Arnold explained that she was using PowerPoint from Microsoft Office 365. She used the Internet because she could work on this project from different locations without having to be on the same computer every time. Miss Arnold selected King Tut for her project and gave a brief presentation to the Board. Mr. Cheeves said Miss Arnold presented her project to the class, then assessed students through video questions.

Dr. Gilbert made the following announcements:

Erma Siegel's Angela Pope has been chosen as Channel 2 News Educator of the Week, and Eryn Wilson has been chosen as *borofamily.com*'s Educator of the Month. Congratulations to Angela and Eryn.

Rebecca Few was selected as math coach by the State for this summer. Sarah Catalano has been selected to be a Consulting Coach for the Early Grades for summer training for the State.

Mitchell-Neilson Principal Robin Newell extends congratulations to Mack Couch, who was one of only seven special education teachers to be accepted into Vanderbilt's Intensive Intervention Program.

Mitchell-Neilson thanked New Vision Baptist Church Sunday school class of Brennan Mangus and David Bae for refurbishing the front landscaping at the elementary campus.

Bradley Academy thanked new sponsor Kroger on Middle Tennessee Boulevard for their support and donation.

MCS thanks Wal-Mart on South Church Street for their gift to the Indigent Care Fund.

Me and My Dad Fair takes place at Mitchell-Neilson this Thursday, Spring Break is next week, and there is a job fair on April 11, at Overall Creek.

Chair Campbell recognized Discovery School fifth grader Ella Phillips, for her outstanding performances singing the National Anthem at all the MTSU women's basketball games.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: February 24, 2015 Meeting
Approval of School Fees (Field Trips)

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the consent items, and Dr. Brown seconded the motion. All approved.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Textbook Adoption Recommendation

Ms. Hawkins presented the Textbook Adoption committee's recommendation for the social studies textbook selection:

- **6th Grade**
 - Prentice Hall (Pearson Education): My World History & Geography: Early Civilizations through the Decline of the Roman Empire Tennessee
- **4th and 5th Grade:**
 - Gibbs Smith Publishers: Tennessee Through Time: The Early Years (4th Grade)
 - Gibbs Smith Publishers: Tennessee Through Time: The Later Years (5th Grade)

- **Kindergarten through 3rd Grade**
 - American Legacy: Studies Weekly K-2
 - American Legacy: World Community Consumable (3rd Grade)

Ms. Hawkins said that Tennessee History for Kids has published supplemental materials, and she hopes to use some of those resources along with these for curriculum.

For mathematics, Ms. Hawkins said it was a little tricky because of the possibility that new standards may be adopted. She said vendors had consumable products ready, and that Curriculum Associates has given a money back guarantee that if standards change they will either refund or adjust the curriculum. She added that the teachers felt this was a strong curriculum. The following materials were recommended:

- **Kindergarten –Sixth Grade**
 - Curriculum Associates, LLC, Tennessee Ready Mathematics
 - Eureka Math Supplemental (free online materials)

Ms. Hawkins said there were 30 participants on the committee, and only two participants voted for something other than the recommended selections. She said this curriculum comes with a technology component called iReady, which assigns curriculum based on student level and also provides intervention and enrichment. She said the curriculum goes all the way through middle school. Ms. Hawkins congratulated the committee that worked so hard. She said they came to all the meetings, and she believes these are strong recommendations.

Following brief discussion, Dr. Brown moved to accept the math and social studies recommendations. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion and all approved.

BO 43 Travel Expense Policy:

Ms. Baker explained the policy before the Board (BO 43) covers all employees and Board members. She said the copy before the Board contains the comments and input from the Board during the retreat as well as language that updates the Board policy. She noted that all changes are in red print.

After discussion, Ms. Rainier moved to approve Board Policy BO 43. Ms. Smith seconded. Chair Campbell called for a roll call vote.

Jared Barrett: <u>Yes</u>	Andy Brown: <u>Yes</u>	Phil King: <u>Yes</u>
Nancy Rainier: <u>Yes</u>	Collier Smith: <u>Yes</u>	Chair Campbell: <u>Yes</u>

The motion passed unanimously.

BO 44 Reimbursement of Expenses Policy

Ms. Baker next presented Board Policy BO 44, which specifically deals with reimbursement for School Board members. She explained that, based on conversations at the retreat, each Board member would be allotted a set amount of funds for travel reimbursement. Additionally, a pool

of money would be set forth in the budget for a limited number of Board members to attend a national conference regarding educational issues each year. Board members interested in attending a national conference would notify the Board secretary in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the early registration deadline for the conference. A limited number of the interested Board members would be selected randomly to attend the conference.

Chair Campbell suggested that at the end of the year, if an individual has not used the allotted amount, the money could be transferred to the pooled amount. Ms. Rainier commended Ms. Baker on doing a fantastic job of capturing the points discussed at the retreat. She added that she is glad the language on lines 21 and 29 did not specify the national conference as NSBA, because there are other national conferences that may apply such as conferences on poverty, etc. Dr. Brown said it is important to go back to why these changes are being made and that is for the Board to be fiscally responsible and transparent to the public.

Ms. Rainier moved to approve Board Policy BO 44, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Chair Campbell asked for a roll call vote.

Andy Brown: Yes
Collier Smith: Yes

Phil King: Yes
Jared Barrett: Yes

Nancy Rainier: Yes
Chair Campbell: Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Opposing Vouchers

Mr. Barrett explained the purpose of the resolution before the Board was to put in writing that the Board is opposed to vouchers and hope that legislators will consider that going forward. Chair Campbell asked if everyone has read the resolution. Ms. Smith said she is very glad that the Board has prepared a resolution and that it is very important that legislators know. Mr. Barrett said there is no accountability in vouchers as proposed -- no accountability for where money is spent or how. Dr. Gilbert said she is very concerned about special needs students because the receiving school is not required to provide services to students other than what they already provide. She said teachers and staff thank the Board for taking a stand against vouchers. Chair Campbell encouraged everyone to contact legislators.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the resolution, and Dr. Brown seconded the motion. All approved.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

NSBA Conference Report

Chair Campbell asked Board members who attended the NSBA Annual Conference to give a brief report to the Board and to the public on the conference. Ms. Rainier noted she attended a preconference workshop on the Board's role in community engagement. She gave a report on many of the sessions she attended during the conference noting that she found them to be interesting and provided valuable information. Mr. King said this was his first time to attend the conference, and he found it to be very beneficial in understanding the Board's role and how other systems operate -- in Tennessee and around the globe. Mr. Barrett said this was his third year to attend the national conference and that it is a valuable resource. He encouraged any Board

member who has not attended to attend. He said he especially appreciated the information on disaster preparedness for schools.

Preschool Registration Dates

Dr. Gilbert reported that every Thursday in April except for the first Thursday of Spring Break, preschool registration will take place at Central Office from 8:30-3:30, and information is available on the MCS website.

Choice School Application Dates

Dr. Gilbert announced that Bradley, Hobgood, and Mitchell-Neilson are the choice schools and application dates are available on their respective websites.

Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson reported revenues up \$2,215,265 compared to this time last year, and revenue is right at 67.7% of revenues received. He added sales tax collections are up over last year, and that is a good sign for the economy here. He said growth money has been received. On the expenditure side, Mr. Anderson said the district has expended 60.3% noting that, at this time last year, expenditures were at 67.7% primarily due to the technology expense. He added that the district is in good shape overall on the budget at this time.

Attendance (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson reported that the district is keeping PTR low (average 20.07:1). Attendance suffered cold and flu season at 96%, which is still excellent, but he hopes to get back up to 97%. Mr. Anderson stated the district has 8,037 students counting preschool and special education students, and that Overall Creek continues to grow.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Smith noted that yesterday was Parent/Teacher Conference Day system wide. She said she received a great deal of positive feedback about student led parent/teacher conferences because children were sharing how they thought they were achieving and teachers shared how they thought children were achieving. She said her child participated along with many MCS children in the free tennis clinic at MTSU, and thanked coaches for hosting as well as the women's and men's tennis teams. She said children experienced different cultures and were outside on a beautiful day. Chair Campbell said the Board appreciates [Council Liaison] Mr. Washington for his attendance at the Board meetings and his relationship with the Board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. King moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Rainier seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Director of Schools