

MINUTES
Murfreesboro City School Board
6 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Karen Hawkins, Caresa Dodson, Kim Frank, Joe Marlin, Robin Newell, Lea Barch, Shavon Davis-Louis, Lisa Trail, Kim Fowler

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

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Pledge of Allegiance led by Martha Worley
Moment of Silence

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A 50-Year Celebration in the Making: Martha Worley

Robin Newell introduced Martha Worley who is celebrating her 50th year at MCS, most of which was at Mitchell-Neilson. Ms. Worley retired in 2009, but she loved what she did so much, Ms. Newell said, she came back and did it part time. Ms. Newell presented Ms. Worley with a gift on behalf of MCS. Ms. Worley said, “There is no better place to have your children go to school.” She said over the years, she has watched things happen to make schools exemplary, and she has watched it go the other way, but that now it is going up again. She thanked the Board and the school system for the support she has been given over the years.

2015 Hope Street Group Fellowship: Debbie Hickerson & Rebecca Few

Dr. Gilbert announced that two teachers out of 30 selected for the 2015 Hope Street Group Fellowship are from MCS. The purpose of the partnership between the state and the fellowship is to connect Tennessee teachers to education policy.

Dr. Gilbert made the following additional announcements.

Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank David Scott at Regions Bank for providing lunch from Moe’s for the entire Mitchell-Neilson staff for Teacher Appreciation Day.

Career days were observed at individual MCS locations, and we would like to thank the many businesses, government agencies, universities, and individuals for their support and for making MCS' career days so successful.

Chair Campbell recognized educators Kelly Bearden of Mitchell-Neilson, Owen Davis of Erma Siegel, Luke Dickerson of Northfield, and Herman Nelson of Overall Creek for being recipients of the Business Education Partnership Foundation Nissan Teacher Mini-Grants.

Chair Campbell also noted that the MCS School Board was one of only 33 to receive the Tennessee School Board Association's (TSBA) Boards of Distinction honor, thanking the Board for their hard work and commitment.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: May 12, 2015 Meeting
Approval of School Fees (Field Trips)

Dr. Brown moved to approve the consent items. Mr. King seconded the motion, and all approved.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Board Policy STU 22 Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline *First Reading*

Ms. Frank explained that at the state discipline conference earlier this year, there was a large focus on the number of days that students are out of school because of disciplinary action, and that there are 4,900 children out on any given day in Tennessee due to discipline. She said the focus is more on what can we do to make our schools stronger so that we have less of a need to use suspension. Ms. Frank said that a lot of things the state recommended, our district is already doing. The examples she gave are bullying prevention, positive behavioral interventions consistent with the Comprehensive Integrated Three Tier Intervention, and fidelity checks. She said our schools have been positioned well, and that discipline is less of an issue because we are proactive. Ms. Frank said these policies are before the Board at the state's recommendation to make the policies consistent with our actions.

Ms. Smith asked about highlighted areas on the policies. Dr. Gilbert explained these were recommendations from principals. Mr. Barrett recommended that line 24 of STU 22 be changed from "schools" to "school employees." He noted on line 49 the word "are" is missing, and recommended a footnote explanation for the asterisk on line 67.

Board Policy STU 23 Discipline Procedures *First Reading*

Chair Campbell, in reviewing STU 23, recommended that under Level Two Disciplinary Procedures the language "Principal hears accusation made by teacher..." to be the same as the language in Level Three Disciplinary Procedures "Principal hears accusation made by accusing party...."

Ms. Frank said that would not be a problem. She explained the meaning of the tiers in that Tier One is universal, Tier Two is low intensity and may be individualized, and Tier Three is increasingly intensive and individualized, noting that Tier One and Tier Two must have been completed in order to do Tier Three.

Mr. Barrett made some recommendations for consistency in language, and clarification about personal electronic devices. Ms. Smith noted the adoption and revision dates of the policies were absent. Ms. Baker cited the dates, and said they would be applied to the policies.

Ms. Frank said, regarding the fidelity walk-throughs for year one, all schools had scores that were consistent with first year implementation for positive behavior. She said this means we talked about it, we are doing it, we are reviewing it, and we are continuing to perfect it. She said it has been well received, that suspension numbers are down, office referrals are down, and it is making a difference for children.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve policies STU 22 and STU 23 on first reading with the recommended changes. Dr. Brown seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Approval of Contract with Head Start

Dr. Gilbert said the contract before them had no significant changes from prior years, and is a continuation of the partnership between MCS and Head Start.

Dr. Brown moved to approve the contract. Ms. Smith seconded the motion, and all approved.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson said the district is at 83.3 percent of revenues at this time of year. He said he expects the growth money to offset all the extra teachers hired as the end of the fiscal year approaches. He said property tax is up over \$223,000, and sales tax collections are \$497,000 over last year indicating strong economies in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County in general. Mr. Anderson said the district is at 77 percent of expenditures noting that last year at this time, the district was at 84 percent of expenditures primarily because of the computer purchases.

Personnel Report

Dr. Gilbert said the information is explanatory on the report noting no new teacher hires at this time of year.

Attendance (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson said enrollment has grown again with 32 additional students over last month through the May 5 reporting period. He said student population has risen by 476 students over last year, reminding the Board that pre-K was reduced by 100 students. He said the pupil teacher ratio is at 20.16 overall, and the district still has an average attendance of 97 percent. Mr. Anderson said there is still a lot of interest in Overall Creek, and the kindergarten numbers have increased, which means the district is still growing. Dr. Gilbert said Rutherford County has seen increases also.

Ms. Smith said teachers are concerned about students coming in right before TCAP and how that affects their scores. Ms. Davis-Louis said it depends on the number of days a student is enrolled. She said if a student is enrolled less than 74 days, it counts as partial credit for value added. She said if a student enrolls in the last month of school, that student's test scores would not have harsh standing on teachers. Ms. Davis-Louis said that if the student is floating around inside the district, it would affect the district, but not the teacher. She said the magic number is 74 where it does not count 100 percent.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. King seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:36 p.m.

Director of Schools