

## MINUTES

Murfreesboro City School Board  
6 p.m., Tuesday, August 25, 2015  
Council Chambers

### ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Joe Marlin, Roseann Barton, Shavon Davis-Louis, Lisa Trail, Ralph Ringstaff, Stacey Burt, and Lee Wilkerson.

Staff Attorney Kelley Baker

### I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hobgood fourth graders Jordan Hawley and Antonia Wyatt and was 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 by saying aye.

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gilbert delivered the following communications:

The Tennessee Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has accepted the proposal SIMplifying Learning to Unleash Student Potential for Elementary Students in a K-6 District for the 2015 Tennessee CEC Fall Conference at Vanderbilt University.

Hobgood's Dee Dee Potter recently had two Hobgood art classes working with visiting Brooklyn, New York artist Timothy Lee. Mr. Lee is the first place winner of "The Journey," an exhibition of artwork by an elite group of young emerging artists with disabilities. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts provided an art lesson plan and covered the costs of all materials required to implement with the children in the Hobgood Library.

The State has awarded MCS \$29,611.65 to implement the 2015-16 Family Resource Center Program. This is a continuation of the program as a result of operating in compliance with program guidelines and successfully serving students and their families.

The General Mills Foundation on behalf of the Murfreesboro Community Action Council has awarded MCS and Coordinated School Health \$10,000 for the Bike for Life program.

Ms. Trail gave a brief overview of the Bike for Life program explaining that it comes under the charge of Coordinated School Health and will focus on bicycle safety as well as the health benefits of bike riding. She stated the program will begin at Cason Lane Academy then expand to Scales Elementary. She said the hope is to later extend the program to the other MCS schools. Ms. Trail stated the program will include a couple of Saturday events for family participation.

Dr. Gilbert invited Publix Manager Mike McCoy to join her and Chair Campbell at the podium. She gave a brief summary of how the Black Fox students were recently evacuated to the Publix parking lot, and how the Publix staff welcomed them and cared for them during the incident. Chair Campbell presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. McCoy. Chair Campbell commended teachers and everyone involved that day in keeping the children safe.

Dr. Gilbert continued the communications.

In September, Shannon Minner, Reeves-Rogers librarian will be joining Linebaugh Library's Rita Shacklett to share the partnership activities of Linebaugh and MCS with the Buffalo Riger library directors. In addition, next month, Shannon and Rita will be presenting at the Tennessee Library Association.

Northfield's sixth grade teacher, Billie Jo Thompson, has received a grant from the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and TVA for a mobile weather station and instruments as well as supplemental materials for their STEM lab.

Lea Bartch and Cherry Ross have been selected for the Tennessee STEM Innovative Leaders Institute. This is a year-long training and mentoring experience that provides participants opportunities to network with other districts across the state, visit innovative schools to examine different models of STEM integration, and share best practices.

The Tennessee Arts Commission has announced Bradley Academy will host the CREATE Conference this summer.

#### IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: August 11, 2015 Meeting  
Approval of School Fees (Field Trips)

Dr. Brown moved to approve the consent items. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion, and all approved by saying aye.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS

2014-2015 Budget Amendments

Mr. Anderson explained the growth fund amendment was the difference in what was anticipated and what was actually received. He reminded the Board these amendments are housekeeping items, and the first set before them pertain to the general purpose fund.

Ms. Rainier moved to approve the amendments, and Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. Ms. Phillips asked Mr. Anderson to explain to the people watching at home what this means. Mr. Campbell gave a brief overview. Chair Campbell asked about the expenditures. Ms. Smith said the Board went through the full budget and scrutinized every detail. She asked if these items were brought before the Board. Mr. Anderson said the budget is done a year in advance and estimations are used for anticipated needs. He said growth dollars are not counted at that time not knowing if the district will actually be receiving them. Dr. Gilbert asked if it would be accurate to say that the growth money has to be spent on the prior year. Mr. Anderson said yes, adding that local dollars are used then expenditures are offset with the growth money. He added that the Board approved categories not individual items. Ms. Smith said she has a little difficulty with it because of the limited role the Board has, and the only way the Board can influence what happens in schools is through policy. Ms. Phillips said it can be very challenging for the Board as well as the public to try to understand all of these things.

Chair Campbell asked for a motion to approve the general purpose amendment. Ms. Phillips moved to approve, and Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

#### 2014-2015 ESP Budget Amendments

Mr. Anderson said the Extended School Program (ESP) is under the same guidelines. He said the program grew, Overall Creek was built, and more people were hired adding salaries, insurance, benefits, et cetera. He said these items come out of the fund balance for ESP, which was over \$1 million at start time leaving ESP in good shape. Ms. Rainier said she knew the Board approved the ESP budget but wanted to confirm that their budget does not affect the operation of Murfreesboro City Schools. Mr. Anderson said that is correct adding that ESP and school nutrition are self-supporting.

Dr. Brown moved to approve the ESP budget amendments, and Ms. Smith seconded. All approved by saying aye.

## VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

### City Schools Foundation Report

Ms. Trail gave the City Schools Foundation Report as required by the bylaws on behalf of Doug Young. She said there are 14 members who serve three year terms. In addition to the trustees, Dr. Gilbert serves, and Mr. Barrett serves as board liaison. She said two new members were added this year - Brook LaRoche and Shavon Davis-Louis. She said the Foundation awards a total of 36 grants including parity grants and teacher grants. She explained that the grants are given anonymously without knowing which school or which teacher received the dollars. Ms. Trail said the grants range in size depending on what is being asked for citing technology and math manipulatives as examples. She added that the Foundation does not limit grant size. She noted

that teachers can come together and ask for a larger grant as a unit. She said the Foundation acts as a conduit for the United Way grant that goes to Franklin Heights Resource Center. Ms. Trail noted the Excellence in Education Gala honored Tommy and Jeannie Bragg last year, and will be honoring Andrea and Ed Lowery this year. Ms. Trail said she is very proud to serve as Foundation liaison, and invited anyone who wishes to view the Foundation website at [cityschoolsfoundation.com](http://cityschoolsfoundation.com). Ms. Phillips gave thanked the committee members for giving their time to serve on the Foundation.

### Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson directed the Board to the June report. He noted on the Revenue Comparison that we are at 102.6 percent of revenue. On the Expenditure Comparison, Mr. Anderson noted expenditures are at 95.1 percent. He called attention to numbers 9, 10, and 16 of the Expenditure Comparison as the items the Board approved amendments for. Mr. Anderson said the auditors are auditing right now on school books and general purpose books adding that the Board will get a report in November. Mr. Barrett asked how the new auditors are working out. Mr. Anderson said the auditors met with school bookkeepers and spent about four hours with them explaining procedures. He said the procedures are different than those used by the previous auditors.

### Personnel Report

Mr. Ringstaff said this is the time of year when the personnel report is lengthy. He said MCS hired 72 certified staff for the 2015-16 school year, and that 36 certified staff left at the end of the 2014-15 school year. He said there are 393 classroom teachers for K-6 grades noting the budget the Board approved was for 392 putting the district right on target for teachers. He said the budget included 16 additional teachers for growth, and 6 coaches. Mr. Ringstaff said the Special Education staff increased by 5 or 6, and ESL grew by 4 or 5. Ms. Phillips asked if exit interviews were conducted on those teachers who left. Mr. Ringstaff said yes explaining that it was done electronically. Ms. Phillips asked Mr. Ringstaff if he could tell why teachers left the district. He said the primary reason was due to spouses transferring jobs, but that some chose to stay home with their families. Ms. Smith asked about the 17 new staff members. Mr. Ringstaff said the district hires the best of the best noting that MCS instituted virtual interviewing and he believes the district to be the first in the state to do this. He explained they interviewed and hired someone who was studying abroad in Germany. He said flyers were sent to every college in Tennessee and the surrounding states asking education departments to pass to their soon-to-be graduates. He said candidates were required to video-tape themselves responding to three questions. He said an onsite job fair was conducted the first weekend in April, and the district was very fortunate to get a lot of applications for the openings. Ms. Smith asked if it was just an application or did they get to meet principals. Mr. Ringstaff said it is all of the above, and they are video-taped teaching a lesson or they are asked to teach a lesson. He said they also contact the candidate's previous principal.

Ms. Phillips said she understands actively seeking certified teachers from universities, but is anything done to bring in experienced teachers. Dr. Gilbert said she thinks more teachers are willing to come in from other systems, and that we are trying to develop leaders out of some of those experienced teachers. Most of the in-service trainings were led by teachers. Ms. Phillips

said it is a balancing act because experienced teachers mean more money, but you gain their experience.

Mr. Ringstaff said 16 to 17 custodians were hired and are going through the verification process adding that the goal is to hire another four or five. Ms. Smith noted a lot of time was spent during the last meeting about getting the word out that we needed custodians, and thanked Mr. Ringstaff for doing that.

#### Attendance (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson noted attendance at 8,359 students, which is 296 more than the end of last year. He said the system does grow during the school year so those numbers are expected to increase. He said the pupil/teacher ratio average is 19.9. Mr. Anderson noted that more student growth has occurred at John Pittard Elementary, but for the most part, the numbers have leveled off. He also noted that the district is well over the state's two percent requirement to receive growth funds. Mr. Anderson said one other time of year there is usually an influx of students is right after Labor Day.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Campbell entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barrett so moved, and Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:43 p.m.

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Director of Schools