

MINUTES
Murfreesboro City School Board
6 p.m., Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Joe Marlin, Ralph Ringstaff, Lea Bartch, Don Bartch, Stacey Burt, Tammy Garrett, Karen Hawkins, Caresa Dodson, Kim Frank, Sheri Arnette, Shavon Davis-Louis, Lynn Hood, Kandy Powers, Angela Fairchild, Roxanna Dove, and Kelly Blanchard.

Staff Attorney Kelley Baker and Council Liaison Ron Washington.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dawson Fletcher, a second grade student in Mala Womack's class at Overall Creek. The Pledge was immediately followed by a Moment of Silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. King Moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Adrienne Archie, Assistant Director for Homework Hotline, gave a brief communication about the services offered. She said Homework Hotline is celebrating its 25th year of providing free tutoring and homework assistance for all students in Tennessee grades K-12. She encouraged students to call adding that the hotline has teachers who speak six different languages.

Dr. Gilbert recognized MCS Board Chair Butch Campbell for achieving the Level IV Boardmanship Award from the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA), and Vice Chair Nancy Rainier for achieving the Level III Boardmanship Award.

Dr. Gilbert made the following communications:

Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank the kind folks at First Baptist Church on Main Street for their donation to their field trip scholarship fund.

Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank Jerusalem Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro for the huge donation of school supplies.

Hobgood once again hit a national audience through National Public Radio (NPR). The story by Nashville Public Radio's Blake Farmer about Hobgood's home visits was reedited and run by NPR during drive time on August 26.

Hobgood Elementary Library has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Scholastic Reading Club and best-selling author James Patterson. Patterson pledged \$1.5 million to school libraries and Hobgood's was one of 28,000 applications submitted.

John Pittard Elementary expresses gratitude to the following:

- \$250 Donation by Babbette Winchell of Exit Realty
- 25 backpacks filled with school supplies by Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church
- \$500 gift card and 150 boxes of school supplies by the Lascassas Pike Kroger
- New Vision Baptist Church for adopting our school

Charles Avent, physical education teacher at Bradley Academy was recognized as Educator of the Week September 10 by WKRN News 2.

State Farm presented a check for \$25,000 to Overall Creek Elementary for their Greenhouse Affect Gardening Grant.

MTSU Freshman Days of Service delivered 1,155 snack bags to be used for MCS students.

Thanks go to MTSU Tennis for hosting a free tennis clinic today for students grades 2 through 6.

Thank you to the Lion's Club for their outstanding work during our school health screenings.

Thank you to the many community members and parents from across the city who read to our students Friday as part of the Reading in the Schools Day sponsored by Read to Succeed.

Chair Campbell recognized Kathy Ferrell, Mobile Health Outreach Coordinator with St. Thomas Rutherford. Ms. Ferrell stated the Mobile Health Unit provides on-site medical screening and immunizations and assists Coordinated School Health with student health screening. She said that Mr. Campbell is a volunteer shuttle driver at St. Thomas Rutherford. Ms. Ferrell said that it has been about five years since they started this journey, and she gave a brief overview of services provided including support for MCS Coordinated School Health for screenings.

Chair Campbell congratulated Mr. Anderson on his recent election as Board Chair to Williamson County School Board.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: August 25, 2015 Meeting

Approval of School Fees (Field Trips)

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the Consent Items. Mr. King seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Elections: Board Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Baker reviewed state and local mandates regarding school board chair and vice chair elections. She said the term is from November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2016. Ms. Baker said that nominations will be given followed by a roll call vote, and that four votes are necessary pursuant to state statute. Nominations shall be followed by a second.

Ms. Phillips nominated Mr. Campbell for Board Chair. Mr. King seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Jared Barrett: Yes Phil King: Yes Nancy Phillips: Yes
Collier Smith: Yes Vice Chair Rainier: Yes Chair Campbell: Yes

Mr. Campbell maintains his seat as Chair of the Murfreesboro City School Board with six Yes votes. Board member Andy Brown was absent.

Chair Campbell entertained nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Ms. Phillips nominated Ms. Rainier, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Phil King: Yes Nancy Phillips: Yes Collier Smith: Yes
Vice Chair Rainier: Yes Jared Barrett: Yes Chair Campbell: Yes

ENA Service Agreement

Mr. Anderson explained that due to contesting of the bid for internet access, federal funds have been withheld the last two years; the TOSS letter explains this and points out that 43 districts are in the same situation as MCS. Mr. Anderson said the ENA organization needs funds to continue providing services, and have approached us on picking up back monies or forward monies. He said a decision is anticipated in a reasonable amount of time. The cost is \$236,280.00 per year for internet access to the school system, a difference of roughly \$70,000. Mr. Anderson said we have to pick up the difference to have services for the upcoming year and asked the Board to approve an agreement to pay the additional amount starting October 1. He added that there are lots of players involved and that TDOE is part of the group we are in. After discussion and questions and answers, Mr. Barrett moved to approve the agreement, and Ms. Smith seconded. All approved by saying aye.

2015-2016 Budget Amendments

Mr. Anderson said the district has received more revenues than projected. He said efforts are maintained every year with local funding to pass muster for audits. With \$566,000 additional in property taxes coming to general purpose budget, this will satisfy the maintenance of effort requirement reminding the Board that the City has asked us to approve figures as they come in rather than at the end of the year. Mr. Anderson said the Board is being asked to approve the additional revenues in the operating budget. He asked the Board to approve additional expenditure monies for the purchase of the HVAC system for Discovery and the additional salary for the director.

Ms. Phillips moved to accept budget amendments. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Revised Capital Improvement Plan 2015-2019

Mr. Anderson said the 2015-16 Capital Improvement Plan along with the five-year plan, need to be submitted to the City for their consideration. Mr. Anderson reminded the Board they reviewed this information at the Board Retreat, including the energy efficiency schools initiative. He said the loan documents reflect zero percent interest, and are proposed as two parts – year one and year two. He said the first section of the loan contains funds already committed from the State, and phase two is being requested from the City. After a brief explanation of the school and classroom remodels as well as energy efficiency, Mr. Anderson said the City has agreed to funding, but the Board has to approve in order to take it to the City.

Mr. Anderson said another change in the Capital Improvement Plan is moving the new bus garage up from year four to year two due to having outgrown the current facility. He said the City is looking for city-owned property that might be suitable. Mr. Anderson said that in year three, we anticipate having to build another school facility based on long-range planning projections and growth. In year four, Mr. Anderson said computer replacement will be needed and those will appear in capital outlay expenditures, as well as replacing the chillers for Erma Siegel and Northfield. Mr. Anderson said the final piece of the five-year plan being presented to the City will consist of growth monitoring and possible roof replacements.

Ms. Phillips said there is a philosophical debate between large schools and smaller schools, and what we want to do for our children. Ms. Smith said she thought a new school would be opening sooner than the 2017-18 year considering the use of portables. Mr. Anderson said a rezoning plan should take care of that problem. Dr. Gilbert said that conversation needs to be had before building a new school, and that she would love to see a smaller school. After discussion, Ms. Rainier moved to present the Capital Improvement Plan to the City. Mr. King seconded. Further discussion was held then Chair Campbell requested a roll call vote.

Roll call vote:

Nancy Phillips: Yes

Collier Smith: Yes

Vice Chair Rainier: Yes

Jared Barrett: Yes

Phil King: Yes

Chair Campbell: Yes

Tenure Recommendations

The Board reviewed the list of teachers recommended for tenure. Ms. Smith motioned to approve the tenure recommendations. Mr. King seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

Murfreesboro City Schools' Integrated Preschool Program (Master Plan Goal 1)

Mr. Marlin along with Ms. Hood and Ms. Blanchard gave a brief PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the integrated preschool program. Mr. Marlin explained the preschool assessment team are the first people students meet when a child has a disability. He said they do all testing, eligibility meetings, and meet with parents to let them know how school operates and introduce them to the school system. More information was given through the presentation followed by a brief question and answer session from the Board.

Extended School Program (ESP) 2014-15 Year in Review (Master Plan Goal 1)

Mr. Ringstaff and Ms. Powers gave a presentation to the Board reviewing some of the ESP programs held over the summer as well as current programs. Mr. Ringstaff said MCS has a great team at Central Office as well as site directors and staff. Ms. Powers explained that, thanks to Peachjar (digital flyers), ESP is able to send newsletters and enrichment brochures so that all parents can see what is available to their children through ESP, and parents can preregister from the comfort of their own homes. She said ESP has instituted curbside pickup which keeps a lot of traffic out of the school buildings, and they purchased new digital walkies that were previously leased. Ms. Powers said they have increased Twitter posts this year, and have improved student learning, and professional development for staff employing over 100 certified teachers last year. Of the many activities, coding camp, arts and crafts, career path exploration, and Junior Achievement were a few of the highlights. Ms. Powers said the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce's Beth Duffield was instrumental in getting volunteers to teach lessons to students followed by talking about careers – all at no cost.

Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson said MCS has an improved net position with revenues ahead of collection schedule at 8.8 percent and expenditures on target.

Personnel Report

This report was visible to the Board in the packet.

Attendance (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson explained that enrollment is up 313 students over the end of last year at this time including pre-K students. The pupil/teacher ratio (PTR) is 19.92 noting that is an excellent ratio, and we have grown 320 students per the current report; PTR. Mr. Anderson said the attendance rate for first month of school is at 95.5 percent.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Barrett noted that September is Archaeology Awareness Month, and this Saturday at The Heritage Center on 225 W. College Street from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. there will be an artifact ID, trashcan archaeology, plants, and more. He invited everyone to come and check it out.

Ms. Phillips announced that Murph's Fun Run starts at 9 at Gateway Island benefitting MCS. The only entrance fee is a box of tissue or wipes.

Ms. Smith reminded everyone that October 1 is the City Schools Foundation & Fashion Show, noting that Roseann Barton is emceeding this year.

Ms. Rainier said she would like a custodial report for the next Board meeting as well as a report on the CHOW bus and how many meals were served over the summer.

Dr. Gilbert recognized Misty Dobbs as the new assistant principal and Jenny Ortiz as the new Principal at Bradley Academy.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Director of Schools