

MINUTES
Murfreesboro City School Board
6 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, 2016
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE:

Wesley Ballard, Phil King, Nancy Rainier, Butch Campbell, Collier Smith, Jared Barrett, David Settles

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Greg Lyles, Lisa Trail, Ralph Ringstaff, Sheri Arnette, Kim Frank, Joe Marlin, Lea Bartch, Cindy Cliché, Dr. Stacey Burt, Christine Winterbrook, Kandy Powers, Dr. Gene Loyd, and Joe Thompson, and Instructional Coaches

Assistant City Attorney Kelley Baker and Councilwoman Madelyn Scales-Harris

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sam and Max Powers, 6th graders from Black Fox Elementary, and Trace Weatherly, a 6th grader from Northfield Elementary. The pledge was followed by a moment of silence.

II. ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Kelley Baker referred to Board Policy 1.200 and state statute T.C.A. §49-2-202(c)(2) and section 25-6 of the Murfreesboro City Code, and then called for nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair. Lisa Vancleave kept a record of nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair, and did a roll call vote after nominations were made. Collier Smith nominated Butch Campbell. Mr. Campbell was the only person nominated for Board Chair, therefore receiving a unanimous vote and was elected as Board Chair.

Roll call vote.

Wesley Ballard	<u>Butch Campbell</u>	Jared Barrett	<u>Butch Campbell</u>
Phil King	<u>Butch Campbell</u>	Nancy Rainier	<u>Butch Campbell</u>
David Settles	<u>Butch Campbell</u>	Collier Smith	<u>Butch Campbell</u>
Chair Campbell	-----		

Wes Ballard nominated Nancy Rainier for Vice Chair. David Settles nominated Jared Barrett for Vice Chair.

Roll call vote.

Wesley Ballard	<u>Nancy Rainier</u>	Jared Barrett	<u>Jared Barrett</u>
Phil King	<u>Nancy Rainier</u>	Nancy Rainier	<u>Nancy Rainier</u>
David Settles	<u>Jared Barrett</u>	Collier Smith	<u>Nancy Rainier</u>
Chair Campbell	<u>Nancy Rainier</u>		

Mrs. Nancy Rainier was elected Vice Chair with five out of seven votes. Mr. Barrett received two out of seven votes. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Rainier expressed their appreciation to the Board for their vote of confidence for another year of service. Ms. Smith thanked them for their commitment.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa Trail presented the communications.

Congratulations to the following staff and board members on recent accomplishments:

- School Psychologist Alison Payne has passed all exams and met criteria for re-certification as an Olweus Bullying Prevention Program Trainer.
- Stephanie Stavinoga, one of our behavior specialists, has completed coursework and been licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).
- Board members Jared Barrett has achieved Level III status and Collier Smith has achieved Level II status with Tennessee School Boards Association.

Murfreesboro City Schools is pleased to announce that Kim Frank and Kevin Templeton will be presenting at the state's LEAD Conference in late October. Their session will be titled *Moving Upstream: A School System's Story in Prevention and Intervention* and will share the journey of Murfreesboro City as we have addressed the behavioral/emotional needs of our students.

One of our Gifted Specialists, Christine Winterbrook, will be presenting at the Tennessee Association for Gifted (TAG) Conference on October 19-21 in Chattanooga.

Murfreesboro City Schools Community Outreach would like to thank the MTSU Office of Student Organizations & Service and the Student Government Association for their donation of 900 snack bags to supplement the Backpack Food Program. The donation was in conjunction with the MTSU Day of Service.

Murfreesboro City Schools has received an Adverse Childhood Experiences Initiative Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00. The grant is from the Department of Children's Services and will provide support in behavioral health for our children and families.

MCS would also like to thank the many businesses that adopted our schools as part of the Hometown Huddle:

Scales-Home Depot

Cason Lane-Parks Group

Mitchell Neilson Primary-Miller Loughry Beach Insurance

Northfield-Yates Services

Discovery-Rutherford County Government

For the 2016-2017 school year, Murfreesboro City Schools was awarded the LEAPS grant in the amount of \$405,000.00 to serve students at six of our schools. These funds provide tutoring and extended learning opportunities for students in the Extended School Program.

Cason Lane teacher Deana Secrest was the winner of a \$1,000 mini-grant for math manipulatives or technology for her classroom at last weekend's Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association Conference at MTSU.

St. Marks did a school supply drive for the teachers at Reeves Rogers. They donated items that were on teacher wish lists and were incredibly generous! They have also arranged a campus clean-up date for November. In addition, St. Marks has an active after-school tutoring program at the school.

Hobgood Elementary would like to thank ETC gymnastics who sponsored a child in gymnastics who exhibited talents in this area.

John Pittard Elementary would like to thank Kroger on Lascassas Pike for donating a \$500 gift card and a cart full of school supplies to the students.

Mitchell Neilson School would like to thank The Experience Church and Pizza Inn for donating all of the pizza for their Family Night.

A grant was applied for by Chelsea Reardon, Youth Market Director of the American Heart Association, for our Coordinated School Health Department to receive a \$5000 sponsor level CPR kit and they won that grant! The CPR kit will be housed at the district office and loaned out to schools. Under the leadership of Meri-Leigh Smith, Coordinated School Health generates more donations and in-kind gifts of greater value than the total cost of the department.

Mr. Campbell said that we have a large number of businesses that our schools and board benefits from and the board appreciates these outside groups.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: August 23, 2016

Approval of School Fees

Nancy Rainier moved to approve the consent items. Jared Barrett seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items on the agenda.

VII. REPORTS/INFORMATION

ESP-Ralph Ringstaff and Kandy Powers

Dr. Gilbert acknowledged Ralph Ringstaff for the great job he is doing as Extended School Program Director along with his responsibilities in HR, and also acknowledged Kandy Powers. Kandy was a large part of the after-school summit that was held recently at the Chamber, and she did a great job. Mr. Ringstaff introduced Kandy Powers, Academic Programs and Grant Coordinator for ESP. Mr. Ringstaff complimented Ms. Powers on an excellent job with ESP. Ms. Powers informed the board of the current enrollment of 2633 students in ESP. She also explained that 533 of those students receive tutoring services through ESP. She said that ESP was awarded a \$10,000.00 increase in their existing 21st Century Grant and LEAPS Grant. She told of a conference that she had attended two years ago in Birmingham where the focus was on Lego Robotics. She received an email from United Way and United Way said that they would purchase a Lego Robotics kit for Discovery School and one for Bradley and will be purchasing one for Scales. Ms. Powers said that ESP was focusing on increasing parent involvement with different events. She then told of the events and showed an excellent video that Ryan Stewart, a teacher from Scales, created. Mrs. Collier Smith said that she would love for more people to see the video.

Gifted-Lea Bartch

Mrs. Bartch explained that we have three gifted specialists and she thanked the board for that addition. She said that the second gifted academy cohort will be October 15. They have trained 75 teachers thus far. The Jennings Jones Foundation has been very instrumental in this training.

Mrs. Bartch explained the role of the gifted specialists, which includes scheduling, writing, and maintaining IEP's. They also identify and test students for the gifted program. They are also working on the scholar's program which will work with gifted students in small groups. They check in on students with social/emotional needs and provide teacher training and support. She said that they want maximum growth for all students. She talked about the four C's: Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration. Mrs. Bartch presented a power point.

Collier Smith mentioned that she is very pleased that this board and Dr. Gilbert have taken the initiative to beef up gifted services. She asked if the gifted specialists are working directly with students other than just testing. Mrs. Bartch said that they are able to work directly with students because with the third specialist, they are now able to balance their schedules and keep IEP's on certain days.

Ms. Smith asked if children who are excelling in, for example, 4th grade math, can they bump up to 5th grade math. Lea Bartch explained that the content would just be accelerated. She said that they felt that it could create problems for that child if you just bump them up. Their thoughts are to progress the standard, instead of moving them up.

Ms. Smith also wanted to know where Discovery School fits in this. Stacey Burt came forward and explained that she will be working with Discovery School. That school chose creativity and depth

complexity as their focus. Ms. Smith also wanted to know if they are targeting specific age groups because she has heard the students say that they get to take a test in 3rd or 4th grade because they are smarter than. Lea Bartch explained that early identification is best. They find the gifted students early and start working with them as soon as possible. They share a lot of strategies and knowledge with special education teachers.

David Settles asked if testing was the only form of identification that we use to recognize gifted students. Mrs. Bartch explained that they also use teacher observations and parent referrals if a student is over achieving multiple measures. She said that they have different cognitive tests that are used.

Mr. Settles also asked how we are identifying ELL students as gifted. Mrs. Bartch explained that they have a non-verbal test with pictures and puzzles along with the packs that the State gave our system. She has also talked to Vanderbilt to find out which tests to give so that we don't miss those students

Nancy Rainier asked how Discovery School's enrollment will be affected if more students are identified. Lea Bartch explained that it won't affect Discovery's enrollment at all. She said that as openings are available at Discovery School, the students can get in, but since the specialists are working with all schools, all students will be served. Principals consider it a huge compliment when the students feel that their needs are being met at their zoned school and they don't want to leave.

Dr. Gilbert explained that the goal is to have one teacher trained in every grade in every school and the direct services that these ladies are providing. She appreciates the leadership of these ladies. She also very much appreciates the Jennings Jones Foundation and Paul Vaughan's leadership and their help with this program.

Phil King stated that he appreciates what they do in finding a child that has a talent and making them be the best they can be. He asked if they have any evidence, feedback, or stories after they leave our system and move to 7th grade. Is there any evidence that the students benefit from this program? Lea Bartch said that since this is just the first year with three gifted specialists, we can start here and keep track of that. Dr. Gilbert added that she has received letters from teachers that wished that they had had this program earlier to help identify some students that they felt needed help.

Mr. Campbell thanked Mrs. Bartch for the presentation and the work they do for the students.

Coaches

Dr. Gilbert presented a power point on the advantages of having coaches and their responsibilities. She then asked Alisha Herbison and Julie Parrish to come forward. They also presented a power point with highlights and accomplishments of coaches. They focused on modeling, enabling, and guiding teachers and collaboration among the group and with other teachers. They talked about the many hours of training that the coaches have been privileged to have over the past year. Alisha explained that teachers are always asking coaches for professional development to share things with them to help in their classrooms. They raved about 95% program being implemented this year and said that they can already

see amazing improvements with this program. They both feel that one of the most important things in our district is collaboration. This also seems to create unification across our district.

Cindy Cliché came forward and introduced her math coaches and presented a power point and told of their accomplishments. Dr. Gilbert asked Mr. Joe Thompson to tell about the experiences he has had with the coaches in his school.

Mr. Campbell thanked them all for their presentations.

Collier Smith asked how the coaches keep from stepping on toes with an experienced teacher. The coaches explained that they go into classrooms humbly and let them know that they are there to help and they only go in and observe if the teacher asked them to. Julie Parrish explained that they are very accepted and welcomed in the schools. She said that teachers love suggestions from coaches.

Mr. Phil King asked if teachers feel like they have done a good job at the end of the day. He feels that coaches are helping teachers see the progress that they have made. Alisha Herbison agreed and explained that they are there to help and support teachers and they have many success stories and many thanks from teachers. Mr. Ballard told the coaches that their enthusiasm was infectious. Dr. Gilbert asked Jon Simmons to come forward and tell of his experience as a math coach. Jon explained how he appreciates the opportunity to be a math coach and to go out and share with other schools.

Revenue and Expenditure

Gary Anderson reported that there is a \$97,000.00 difference down from this time last year. Expenditures are up some this month because three pay days fell in this month, but that balances out as the year goes.

Enrollment (PTR) Report

Gary Anderson commented on the Enrollment Report by stating that there are an additional twenty two students from the fourteen after Labor Day over last year. We are at 97% on average daily attendance. Mr. Campbell asked about total enrollment, which Mr. Anderson told him was 8455 students.

Personnel Report

Mr. Campbell asked if we have all academic coaches on board. Dr. Gilbert said that we have all but one at Discovery School. She is working with Kristina Maddux on that.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Do you want TSBA to facilitate the Director's Evaluation?

The Board decided that they want TSBA to continue facilitating the Director's evaluation. Dr. Gilbert will get that arranged.

Meeting with legislators? Mr. Campbell asked the Board if they would like to meet with legislators at Rutherford County District Office on either December 5th or 12th. Collier Smith said that the more the

board does with legislators, the better. She would also like to see the legislators travel on the bus tour with board members, but she would like that tour at a separate time than the one scheduled for October 21st. The Board was in agreement about meeting with legislators with Rutherford County.

The Board Retreat will be held at central office with dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. each night on September 28 and 29.

David Settles asked if anyone had heard anything about a liaison from the city council to sit in on board meetings, but no one had heard anything. Mr. Campbell said that the mayor would decide that.

Phil King mentioned that a lot of what we heard tonight was on a show on NPS Television. He watches a 2-hour program entitled The School of the Future that focuses on teaching to the whole child and introducing science engineering early like we do with Lego Robotics. He said we are the school of the future.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Jared Barrett made the motion to adjourn, Phil King seconded. All approved by saying aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Director of Schools