

## MINUTES

Murfreesboro City School Board  
6 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Wesley Ballard, Jared Barrett, Chair Campbell, Phil King, Collier Smith, Vice Chair Nancy Rainier. Mr. Settles was absent.

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Jenny Ortiz, Lea Bartch, Grey Lyles, Lisa Trail, Roseann Barton, Robin Newell, Ralph Ringstaff, Stacey Burt, and Joe Marlin

Assistant City Attorney Kelley Baker. Mr. Bill Shacklett was absent.

### I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keeley Vaughn, a second grader from Mitchell Neilson and John Pittard's student body president, Zach Jones, a sixth grader, and student body vice president Isaiah Boles, also a sixth grader. Mr. Campbell asked that everyone remember Lisa VanCleave's mother during the moment of silence because she is very ill. Mrs. VanCleave was absent.

#### Moment of Silence

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa Trail presented the following communications:

Mitchell-Neilson School would like to thank the following community sponsors and alumni for over \$2500 in donations for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Land Between the Lakes:

Lee Masonry Products, Fann's Air Conditioning and Heating, Youngs, Drywall Supply, Summit Insulation, Avery Smith Nursery and Landscaping, Haynes Brothers Lumber Company, West Fork Building Company, Craig's Tax Service, Bobby Allen State Farm Agent, Percy & Elizabeth Rucker, Richard Odom, Linda and Jerry Leith, and James and Sheila Garner.

Congratulations to Julie Parrish, academic coach at Mitchell Neilson, and Sonya Cox, academic coach at Siegel and Amy Gardner, Reeves-Rogers 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, who have been selected by the State

*MISSION STATEMENT: To assure academic and personal success for each child.*

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Recorded by L. VanCleave

Department of Education to be Summer State Standards Facilitator Trainers. Ms. Parish and Ms. Cox, along with Misty Dobbs, assistant principal at Bradley, Gail Boyd, math coach at Bradley, and Cherry Ross, academic coach at Overall Creek, have also been selected to be Summer Content Specialists by District to District (D2D).

Congratulations to John Pittard who earned first place in the Boro Book Battle and to Discovery School and Cason Lane who tied for second place. Participating schools included Cason Lane, Discovery, Erma Siegel, Hobgood, John Pittard, Northfield, and Reeves Rogers. A special thanks to Chair Campbell and Sheri Arnette who served as judges, Laurie Offutt who emceed, and a very special thanks to MCS Librarians who worked so hard to make the Battle happen.

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to thank St. Thomas for purchasing 6 new Blood Pressure machines for the district this year (about \$21,714). We submitted a proposal to fund all school buildings over the next three years. Our current machines are the original ones purchased from CSH in 2007. They are old or not working, so this is great news! We will now be better able to monitor and triage our students.

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to thank New Vision Baptist Church for their \$3,000 donation to the Backpack Food Program.

Mitchell Neilson would like to thank the members of First Baptist Church Murfreesboro for preparing lunch for our entire staff on our last early dismissal day.

MNS would like to thank Freebirds Food Truck for providing lunch to the faculty and staff of Mitchell-Neilson on Student-Led Conference Day. They were open to serve the parents too and donated 15% of the sales to our PTO!

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to extend our appreciation to the Rutherford County Food Bank for partnering with us to provide supplemental food for our Backpack Food Program.

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to congratulate one of our Gifted Specialists, Dr. Stacey Burt, for being chosen to present at the NAGC's 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention that will be held in Charlotte, NC, on November 9-12, 2017. Her proposal was selected from more than 850 submissions.

Congratulations to Mercury Court Preschool for being selected as the Read to Succeed School of the Year. A big thanks to Mercury Court teachers Beth Blasingame and Tania Clayton for their hard work. Mercury Court will be honored at an appreciation lunch on May 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 11:30 a.m.

Kindergarten preview days are being held this week at our schools and Kindergarten Registration is May 4-5. Pre-K Registration is going on now and is being held throughout April. Additional information is on our website.

Jennings and Rebecca Jones Gifted Academy Poetry Café was held Thursday, April 6, at Just Love Coffee. Suzanne St. John, Literacy Coach at Bradley Academy, presented Maria Warrick-Allen, from Bradley, and Addie Burt, from Discovery, to share a sampling of their poems. Everyone commented on what a good job they did. Mrs. Rainer asked if the poems could be put on-line so that they can be read again.

#### IV. CONSENT ITEMS

##### Minutes: Board Meeting February 28, 2017

Second Reading of the Following Policy:

##### Board Policy 4.700 Testing Programs

##### Approval of School Fees

Mrs. Rainier made the motion to approve the consent items. Mr. Barrett seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS

##### 2017-2018 School Calendar Adjustment

Dr. Gilbert said that there is one change that needs to be made in the calendar. There is an election day on Tuesday, May 1, so we are recommending to extend the first semester of school. This will match the County's calendar. They have adjusted theirs as well. There will be no school on Tuesday, May 1. We will add that day to December before winter break. Thursday will now be the last ½ day before winter break.

Mr. Jared Barrett made the motion to approve the change in the calendar. Mrs. Collier Smith seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

##### RFP for ESP Software Upgrade

Mr. Ringstaff explained that if approved, ESP will upgrade their software program. They did research and found out that the current program was not providing the needs of ESP. Mr. Ringstaff is recommending Easy Care which will cost about \$14,000.00 per year. This is approximately \$1000.00 more than the program that is currently in place but it will be more user friendly for parents to make payments, etc. Mr. Barrett asked if other systems were using this program and Mr. Ringstaff said that Franklin Special School District uses it and they have for about 10 years. They highly recommend it.

Mrs. Rainier made the motion to approve the new software program and Mr. Barrett seconded it. All approved by saying aye.

Mr. Ballard asked if this program is budgeted in this fiscal year, and Mr. Ringstaff said that it will be included next year's budget.

Mr. Phil King said that he noticed that this is a 3-year contract versus the other one being a 1-year contract. He said that it seemed to be less expensive than the one we have. Mr. Ringstaff explained that the current provider didn't bid on it. The only other one that bid on it was \$19,000.00 per year.

### Open Zoned Schools

Mr. Anderson explained that Board Policy 6.205 requires that the Board vote on the schools that will be open-zoned schools. The reason there would be open or closed zoned schools is based on enrollment and potential growth in those areas. There are no changes to the past years, but Mr. Anderson wanted the Board to know and vote on which schools were open and which ones were closed. He said that the open zoned schools are Black Fox, Cason Lane, Northfield, and Reeves-Rogers. This means that anyone in the county can request to go to those schools and if there is room in the particular grade levels, they can go there. The controlled choice schools, Bradley, Hobgood, Mitchell Neilson, have the ability to attract other students up to the limit of what that school can handle. The closed zoned schools will be Discovery, Erma Siegel, Overall Creek, John Pittard, and Scales.

Mr. Ballard wanted to understand closed zoned schools a little better. He said that the way he understood closed zoned schools means that a student cannot come from another zone into that zone. Mr. Anderson agreed.

Mrs. Smith asked Mr. Anderson to explain open zoned schools once more.

Mr. Campbell said that if someone wanted to go to a choice school, they could apply, but if they're full, then they can go to an open zoned school, but not a closed zoned school. Mr. Anderson confirmed this. Mr. Campbell also wanted to clarify that in all situations if a child is going from a zoned school to another school, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation to and from that school. Mr. Anderson said yes, if they are not within the transportation zoned lines, they have to provide transportation.

Mr. Ballard made the motion to approve the open and closed zoned schools as listed above. Mr. King seconded that motion. All approved by saying aye.

## VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

### City Schools Foundation Report

Lisa Trail presented an update and report on the City Schools Foundation. Mrs. Trail explained that they now have 22 board members now, and today the new board members started their first meeting. They tend to roll off in March and add new members in April. The new board members are Eric Meriwether, Travis Lampley, Kimberly Robertson, Vickie Eastam, Justin Burrell, Stephanie Roach, and Andy Jakes. The Board Chair is Minerva Smith, Vice Chair is Brooke LaRoche, Treasurer is Rebecca Upton and she is being backed by David Scott and the secretary is Chris Scott. There are two major events that come up

every year: The Back to School Dash is September 16 (5K and 10K) and held at Overall Creek. The Back to School Dash will take the place of the Fashion Show this year. Excellence in Education is scheduled for January 26, 2018. Honorees will be Max and Mary Moss this year and it will be held at the new MTSU Student Union Building. The Chair of Excellence in Education this year is Sandra Parks.

Last year the Foundation gave \$24,000.00 in parity grants to our schools and over \$50,000.00 in teacher grants.

Mr. Campbell thanked Mrs. Trail for the report and Mrs. Smith thanked Mrs. Trail and all of those that are joining the Foundation Board.

#### Revenue and Expenditure Report

Mr. Anderson explained that the Board packet included two revenue and expenditure reports. One for last month and one for this month. Mr. Anderson reviewed the most recent report. Our net income position is \$8,759,976.00. We are at the 75% mark of the school year when this report was done. Last year at this time, we were at \$6,402,571.00, so our cash position is better this year. On the revenue side, our property tax collections are up \$159,000.00 from last year and our sales tax collections are up over \$654,000.00 over last year at this time. These are good numbers. 78.5% of revenue has been received. On the expenditure side, we are at 67.2% of expenditures, which is also good.

#### Personnel Report

Dr. Gilbert asked the Board to call her if they have any questions on the Personnel Report.

#### Enrollment (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson explained that we grew 28 students over last month. We are up 173 students over last year. Our average attendance is at 95%. He reviewed pupil teacher ratio by grade. He also informed the Board that our Pre-K Special Ed numbers keep growing. We have grown over 40 students in Pre-K over the last two months.

Mrs. Rainier asked if a child lives outside MCS zoned schools area, would they come to us or go to county? Mr. Anderson said that we do not take out of city students in preschool.

Mrs. Smith asked if we take out-of-city students for special education. Mr. Anderson said that yes, we have some students in our district for special education. They live in the county but are coming to us for services.

Mr. Ballard asked Mr. Anderson if there was any event that had driven the Pre-K special ed numbers up. Mr. Anderson said that when they turn 3, there is a program called child find that we use to locate students who are in need of services and we have been successful with that. Mr. Ballard said that he knew that we had new immigrant students come in and didn't know if that affected our numbers. Dr. Gilbert said that she feels that we are just seeing an increasing number of special needs students. Mr. Joe Marlin said that he didn't feel that there was a higher number of special needs students from past years, but just growth in our community. Dr. Gilbert also stated that we are probably not seeing an increase any

more than any other district. She said that she has spoken with other superintendents that have also had an increase.

Mrs. Rainier mentioned that the average attendance is down and wanted to know when this period ended on the report that they were given. Mr. Anderson said that the period ended on March 24, the period before the heavy flu time, and we are on our way back up now.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell laid some information at each board member's location regarding the TSBA Fall District Meetings for Mid-Cumberland on September 28 in Houston County. The South Central Meeting is in Tullahoma on September 21. He would like for as many of the Board to attend as possible. He gave everyone a copy of the agenda as well. He asked them to check their calendar and decide which one they want to attend. Mr. Barrett said that previous meetings have been so far away that he would like to host one of these meetings or possibly Rutherford County could host one. Mr. Barrett suggested that someone possibly talk to TSBA about getting meetings closer to us.

Mrs. Rainier asked if Board members could inform TSBA or ask them if they could attend the South Central meeting. Mr. Campbell said that he didn't think that they would care which meeting they attend. Mrs. Rainier said that they would probably need to know in case they present awards. Mrs. Smith said that September 21 would work best for her.

Mr. Campbell also mentioned the Summer Law Institute in Gatlinburg on July 20-22. He said that it begins on Thursday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., goes all day on Friday and part of the day on Saturday. Mrs. VanCleave has already reserved rooms for everyone.

Mrs. Collier Smith mentioned that the Board has had a lot of meetings lately. She said that they met nine hours last week to develop a budget.

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Ringstaff to give an update on the Retirement Incentive. Mr. Ringstaff said that he has received several inquiries and questions about insurance. They have two and a half more weeks to decide. He said that one has signed up that he did not know beforehand and two that are deciding, so that brings the total to four that plan to retire after this school year.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barrett made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Ballard seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Director of Schools