

MINUTES
Murfreesboro City School Board
6 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Chair Butch Campbell, Vice Chair Nancy Rainier, Wesley Ballard, Jared Barrett, Collier Smith, Phil King, David Settles.

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Lisa Trail, Greg Lyles, Lea Bartch, Dr. Stacey Burt, Joe Marlin, Joe Thompson, Ralph Ringstaff, Dr. Gene Loyd

Assistant City Attorney Kelley Baker and City Liaison Bill Shacklett

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brokelyn Chamblee, a sixth grader at Black Fox Elementary and Kenton Tracy, a third grader at Northfield Elementary.

Moment of Silence

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nancy Rainier made the motion to approve the agenda. Phil King seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Jennings and Rebecca Jones Gifted Academy-Honoring Paul Vaughan

Mr. Campbell turned the meeting over to Dr. Gilbert. Dr. Gilbert said that she was honored to honor a mentor of hers. Dr. Gilbert said that she has tremendous respect for Mr. Paul Vaughan who has changed this community. He established Read to Succeed, he works with the university, and is very involved with Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City Schools. Dr. Gilbert turned the program over to Stacey Burt and Lea Bartch.

Stacey Burt said that three years ago, MCS embarked on journey to provide teachers with support for teaching our high achieving students and gifted learners. At the conclusion of the three year period, we would have one teacher, per grade level, per school trained. By this time next year we will have trained 96 teachers which will have impacted roughly 3080 students. None of this progress could have been possible without the generous funding from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones foundation.

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Recorded by L. VanCleave

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

Lea Bartch showed a video that showcased some things that happened at the Gifted Academy's project presentations. Mrs. Bartch explained that they will begin the 3rd cohort in May. They have 36-38 teachers for the next cohort. Mrs. Bartch asked teachers in the audience that had been through the cohort to stand to be recognized.

Stacey Burt introduced Dr. Gene Loyd and he talked about how the Gifted Academy has impacted his school at Northfield. Dr. Loyd explained that his teachers go to the Gifted Academy and come back into his school, and then Stacey Burt meets with them once a month. They have now trained most of their teachers on Kaplans, a way of thinking, one part of which is using multiple perspectives. Dr. Loyd said that he is seeing more depth in the thinking and talking among students in the classrooms. He feels that this is impacting the students. He called two of his teachers up to talk about the impact of the Gifted Academy as well. He introduced Judy Gritton and Mary Orcutt. They spoke about their journey through the Gifted Academy. They feel that they have been empowered by the Gifted Academy. Then, they presented Mr. Vaughan with a Gifted Academy super hero cape and they thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Vaughan came forward and said that everyone had done an excellent job describing the Gifted Academy, its objectives, and some of the results. Mr. Vaughan said that the Gifted Academy is one of the Foundation's flagship projects. He said that it's not just about gifted students, but the students from the Gifted Academy have made an impact on other students. Mr. Vaughan feels that it is better learning for all children, and for this, he is extremely pleased. On behalf of the Foundation, Mr. Vaughan thanked everyone for recognizing the benefit that the Gifted Academy is having, and he wished everyone well in the future.

Mr. Campbell told Mr. Vaughan that the students and teachers have benefited from the dedication and leadership that he and the foundation has provided for us, and we could never thank him enough. He added that he appreciated all of the hard work that he and the foundation have done for Murfreesboro City Schools.

Collier Smith added that Mr. Vaughan has been helping MCS for a very long time. She said that he was one of the initial board members for the City Schools Foundation twelve years ago. Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Vaughan for the many services that the City Schools Foundation has provided as well.

Mr. Campbell said that he noticed on the news media that Central Magnet School has been recognized as the top school in the state and tenth in the nation. He feels that because of our students from MCS that go there, we've had a big hand in that. He congratulated Central Magnet and the students that came from MCS and attend there.

Mr. Vaughan said that Mr. Campbell had a good point. He said that he is turning his attention now to how we transition these gifted students that have had the benefit of this type of learning up the ladder. He is working with the county to find ways to make it a more seamless transition.

Lisa Trail presented the following communications:

Congratulations to 5th grade Discovery School students for placing 1st place in the Earth Day Video Contest!

Team Let's Be Bee Heroes

Nij Patel

Alex Merchant

Hank Wells

A BIG thank you to Ms. Melissa Carnes and the DS staff for getting students involved in this contest.

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to congratulate Oliver Pepper, a first grader at Erma Siegel Elementary, for receiving the 3rd place award in the Special Kids 5K Race in his age group. He is the son of Rachel Pepper, 4th grade teacher at Erma Siegel Elementary.

Congratulations to Cason Lane's Alyssa Perez who placed second at the Read to Bee spelling bee!

Congratulations to Discovery School 5th Grade students Hank Wells, Nij Patel, and Alex Merchant for their 1st place win in the Earth Day video contest, demonstrating the importance of bees.

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to congratulate the City Art Show winners. They include:

Best of Show: Marllory Ovalle-Delarocho, Hobgood

Best of Schools: Overall Creek Elementary

Best of Art Teachers: DeeDee Potter, Hobgood Elementary

Congratulations to Cason Lane Academy's Sarah Chumney who will be representing Murfreesboro City Schools as part of the Department of Education's science and social studies standards review process.

We are excited to announce that Murfreesboro City Schools will receive two of the state's Read To Be Ready grants. The district grant is for \$37,600 and will provide a summer reading camp for 40 students over a five-week period this summer. Bradley's grant is for \$27,000 and will serve 30 students over a four-week period this summer. Both grants have a parent component and involve multiple community partners.

Thank you to Discovery Center for partnering with Bradley Academy to create an interactive Beat Lab class for Bradley students. Students learn the basics of creating music by integrating Math and Science and then compose their own song and music video to go with it.

Thank you to Center for the Arts for writing a \$5,000 grant to provide 15 Bradley students with a two-week tuition free Summer Camp focused on theatre and the arts.

Thank you D & D Oil for bringing Bess the Book Bus to Bradley Academy and ensuring that every child received a free book. Thank you for sponsoring our Arts night and helping us provide dinner for our families while they enjoyed a night of arts.

Bradley Academy would like to thank City Church for their constant support and dedication to our community. Every staff member has been adopted by a City Church member and receives regular reminders that they are appreciated. City Church also volunteered their time at Bradley's Arts Night to serve dinner to all of the families.

Murfreesboro City Schools would like to thank the Murfreesboro Lioness Club for their \$200 donation to the Backpack Food Program. They continue to support this program throughout the school year both monetarily and with food donations.

Integrated Preschool is accepting applications for peer models for the 2017-2018 school year.

St. Thomas Health will host a Day of Home, Health, and Healing on Saturday, April 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free services will include a range of medical, vision, and dental care.

Black Fox would like to invite you to attend Asian Cultural Night on May 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Several of our schools will be competing in the Science Olympiad which will be this Saturday, April 29, at John Pittard Elementary.

The MCS Retirement Reception has been tentatively set for Tuesday, May 23, before the Board meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Rotunda.

Murfreesboro City Schools will host an Employee Recognition Celebration on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at The Grove at Williamson Place.

Murfreesboro City Schools will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12.

Mr. Campbell added that the groundbreaking for the Community Technology Center adjacent to Hobgood Elementary will be May 23.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

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Approval of School Fees

Jared Barrett made the motion to approve the consent items. Wesley Ballard seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Approval of General Fund, ESP Budgets and Cafeteria Budgets

Mr. Anderson said that we are bringing to the Board a balanced budget. Mr. Anderson has received the BEP number from the state and have had communication with the city and county regarding property tax and sales tax. Based on that information and the changes that have been made, we are presenting a balanced budget that satisfies the state's maintenance of effort requirement and gives us the appropriate fund balance that is needed to pass the state's approval. Mr. Anderson explained that he had sent the Board an email explaining changes before the meeting, but entertained any questions they may have. Mr. Anderson explained that we do have enough fund balance to make the budget work.

Wes Ballard asked if the funding that we show and revenues that we show are all for sure. Mr. Anderson explained that there are always unknowns in sales tax collections. He said that it depends on the economy. He said that we base it on the state's 3.8% increase and that's all we have to go by. We have to use their estimated numbers.

Mr. Ballard also mentioned that the legislature just passed the Improve Act and the Governor's tax on gasoline and there was a reduction in food tax. He asked if that would impact sales tax. Mr. Anderson said that was all done before the state gave us the 3.8%. Mr. Anderson said that if there is an impact, we will make adjustments throughout the year as we need to.

Jared Barrett made the motion to approve the budget. David Settles seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Updated Board Policy 4.700 Testing Program

Dr. Gilbert said that the legislature has recently changed the percentage that TCAP will count as part of the student's final grade. She explained that previously we were required to decide whether we wanted to go with 15%-35% at the time. We decided on 15% being part of the student's final grade. Now the law is that if we get the scores in, they will count 10% of the final grade so we need to update our policy from 15% to 10%. She also told the Board that she will be coming back to them with this policy because it also affects next year's scores, but we need to fix the policy now for this year.

Nancy Rainier asked Dr. Gilbert to clarify that we'll discuss this again next year, and Dr. Gilbert said that this year it will count 10% and next year, we'll have to change it because it will count 15% of the final grade. She said that we have no choice this year.

Collier Smith asked if it is 10% no matter what, and if so, that is great. Dr. Gilbert agreed. Mrs. Smith said that if scores do not come in in time, it's nothing. Dr. Gilbert confirmed that yes that is correct. Mrs. Smith asked if scores don't come in, can we still get the scores to the parents at some point. Dr. Gilbert said that yes, we will get the quick scores to the parents, but they will not be figured into the grade. The quick scores will go out now, and the comprehensive scores will be in October. Mrs. Smith said that she appreciates the teachers making it a lot less stressful.

Nancy Rainier asked about on number 7 when it says "placing students in remedial programs," can we also add gifted programs to that? Dr. Gilbert said that yes, we can do that.

Jared Barrett said that since we are talking about testing, he mentioned that this year was paper, he wondered if next year would be on-line. Dr. Gilbert said that 5th and 6th will be optional next year and the following year will be 5th and 6th on-line.

Nancy Rainier made the motion to approve testing programs 4.700 with the addition to number 7 “and/or gifted programs.” Collier Smith seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Mr. Campbell said that while we were talking about tests, he was speaking to someone that told him that the writing tests were being done on computers. Dr. Gilbert said that we do not do that. Mr. Joe Marlin confirmed that no, we do not. Mr. Joe Marlin said that some high schools are taking their End-of-Course testing on-line.

Phil King said that on the policy, the state has to give us our grades 5 days before the end of the school year, so that would mean that they have to give us the grades by May 18, correct? Dr. Gilbert said that they are projecting May 22. Mr. King said that will be interesting to see if that happens.

Approval of Advisory Board/Family Resource Center

Dr. Gilbert said that they have the list of members before them for approval.

Mr. Ballard asked what is the Advisory Board and Family Resource Center. Mr. Lyles came forward to explain that the Family Resource Center is partially funded by the state, but it is a physical location where we offer services to parents so that they can work on job searches, they have internet service available and parenting classes. He said that we have been out of Franklin Heights since last December and are working on securing another location. The Advisory board is made up of community partners that help us offer services to parents.

Mr. Campbell asked how the members are selected. Mr. Lyles said that most members roll over from Franklin Heights, have an interest in our program, or are from organizations that we partner with to offer services through the center. Mr. Campbell asked if Mr. Lyles serves on this Board and he said yes, he was the chair person.

Jared Barrett made the motion to approve the list of Board members. David Settles seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell said that they all have an agenda for the summer law conference at their desk and that Lisa VanCleave has made reservations for everyone.

Mr. Campbell also mentioned the District meetings that are coming up. He said that he had contacted the county chairman and they have not discussed it yet. He told the Board that if they decide to go to Tullahoma, let Lisa VanCleave know so that she can contact TSBA and let them know where we will be.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jared Barrett made the motion to adjourn. David Settles seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Director of Schools