

MINUTES
Murfreesboro City School Board
6 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2017
Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Chair Butch Campbell, Vice Chair Nancy Rainier, Wesley Ballard, Jared Barrett, Collier Smith, Phil King, and David Settles (at 6:20)

Staff: Dr. Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Ralph Ringstaff, Lisa Trail, Joe Marlin, Don Barch, and Angela Fairchild

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 Jayden Po'e, a fourth grade student from Overall Creek and Reagan Turnbow, a third grade student from Discovery School followed by a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gilbert presented the following communications:

The Feed the Children Teacher Store, 310 Tech Park Dr., LaVergne, will be open to MCS teachers Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30p.m. - 4:45p.m. during the 2017-2018 school year.

Teachers can shop once each month for classroom supplies, books and office furniture. These items are provided free of charge. Students in the classrooms are the main focal point of the program.

Dr. Gilbert thanked the Board for the bagels this morning for Teacher Appreciation Week at the central office.

Congratulations to the following Business Education Partnership (BEP) grant recipients:

- Ty Batts and Debbie Hickerson—Cason Lane Academy: Global Thinkers
Artists and Anthropods
- Anita Morton—Mitchell-Neilson: Going Beyond the Lens
- Shannon Minner—Reeves-Rogers: Robotics, Programming, and Math with Ozobots

Congratulations to Meri-Leigh Smith who has been selected by the Office of Coordinated School Health as the 2016-2017 Mid-Cumberland Regional Coordinator of the Year.

Congratulations to Dr. Tammy Garrett, who has been named the District 12 Principal of the Year for the Mid-Cumberland District.

At the Board budget sessions, it was suggested that town hall meetings be held to gain community input for the strategic plan. The following cluster meetings are tentatively planned for 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday in August, September, and October:

- August 15 at Overall Creek for Overall Creek, Scales, and Cason Lane
- September 19 at Mitchell Neilson for Mitchell Neilson, Northfield, Erma Siegel, and John Pittard.
- October 17 at Hobgood for Hobgood, Black Fox, Discovery, Reeves-Rogers, and Bradley.

Dr. Gilbert said that she would get these dates to the Board, but wanted to go ahead and make them aware.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

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Resolution of Exception

Approval of School Fees

Mrs. Nancy Rainier had a question about the field trip that was listed as MCS-Tennessee Political Process. Dr. Gilbert explained that was the Youth Leadership Academy that went to the State Capital on Monday.

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

V. ACTION ITEMS

First Reading of the Following Policy: 6.400 Promoting Student Wellness

Dr. Gilbert explained to the Board that they had already approved the wellness policy, but we have new guidelines from the State. Dr. Gilbert said that this policy is a more detailed policy. She explained that there were times that the policy read “should” instead of “must” and she felt that was important to give leeway to our schools.

Mrs. Rainier asked if we know anything about free and reduced lunches since we have a new Secretary of Education. Mr. Anderson said that the free and reduced lunches will continue at least through this next year. She also asked about line 11 on the new revised policy. She said that it talks about the triennial assessments are made available to the public. Dr. Gilbert said that is nothing that would violate HIPPA. Mrs. Rainier also asked about lines 28-30 where it states that the district will promote healthy nutrition through various activities and she wanted to know who is going to teach that. Dr. Gilbert

explained that is something that we are already doing and is included in the standards-based health curriculum. Mrs. Rainier also mentioned on lines 39-40 where it's referring to the special programs and they are using acronyms, she feels that we need to spell out the words. Mrs. Rainier mentioned line 58 where it speaks of celebrations. Dr. Gilbert referred to line 55 where it states the word "encourage." Mr. Campbell mentioned that on line 58 that we are just discouraging foods being brought into the cafeteria, but not saying that they cannot do it. Dr. Gilbert said that is a site based decision.

Collier Smith asked about line 59 under the restaurant food section that food may not be used as punishment or reward. Dr. Gilbert again referred to the word "encourage" on line 55. Mrs. Smith felt that line might need to be loosened up a little. Dr. Gilbert said that after a lengthy discussion between her, Coordinated School Health, and Nutrition, she feels that this is about as loose as we can get this policy.

Mr. Anderson added that one of the acronyms that they were discussing earlier, SBP, stands for School Breakfast Program.

Mr. Ballard asked that if a teacher has a reward program for good behavior and wants to serve brownies or pizza, are they allowed to do that. Dr. Gilbert said that the preference would be fresh fruits and vegetables, but there is nothing that says they can't do it.

Mr. Campbell asked that if a teacher wants to reward their class with pizza, is it ok to use pizza that is made and comes from cafeteria after lunch. He said that it's not being brought in from an outside. Mr. Anderson explained that this policy is tied to the USDA guidelines and they are discouraging food as the reward, but they also don't unequivocally say no.

Phil King said possibly an example of punishment/reward be that if half the class earned the pizza party and the other half didn't and they have to eat hotdogs or an alternative snack. He felt that would be punishment or reward. He also understands not using food as a reward.

Mr. King asked about line 48 where it states that all foods and beverages sold to students...he wanted to make sure that he understood correctly. He asked if this was food that was made available to students other than lunch to be purchased like ala carte. Dr. Gilbert said that is correct.

Nancy Rainier moved to approve the policy with one change on line 59 to read "discouraged" instead of "may not." Collier Smith seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Approval of the 2016-2017 Budget Amendments

Mr. Anderson said that we have a few budget amendments that have to be approved before June 30. This will require several votes because of the individual budgets. Mr. Anderson explained each budget amendment. He first asked for a motion to approve the general purpose budget amendments. Mrs. Rainier said that some categories seemed to have gone up. Mr. Anderson said that some categories have gone up, but we received additional revenues.

Mr. Ballard asked about the first item from cash included in the fund balance. Mr. Anderson explained that is where you get the offsetting of expenditures and revenues. There was some discussion.

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

Mr. Anderson moved on to the ESP Budget amendments. He explained that they had extra expenditures on salaries and wages because of extra students in the program and they needed extra staff members. Mr. Anderson explained that it wasn't much money involved and ESP has the revenues to cover it and it comes out of their fund balance.

David Settles made the motion to approve the ESP budget amendments. Nancy Rainier seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Mr. Anderson explained that the next budget amendment was the Debt Service Fund for 17-18. He explained that it is a city document that has to be approved by the Board. It doesn't impact us, but is part of the overall city finances. It is required by the city for their financials.

Wesley Ballard made the motion to approve the Debt Service Fund for 2017-2018. Phil King seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Mr. Anderson explained that the next set of documents are Federal Program documents and are not a part of the general purpose budget. They have to be approved before June 30 to be in the budget. These are numbers that we don't have from the State yet, so we will be bringing another budget amendment later in October. This is the estimate that we have been given. Mr. Anderson will bring back in October with final documents.

Jared Barrett made the motion to approve these Federal Program documents. Wesley Ballard seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Mr. Anderson explained that the last page is the 2017-2018 Budget Amendment Expenditures on other uses and transfers. This is for the energy loans that we reimburse the city for.

Collier Smith made the motion to approve that document. Phil King seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

Approval of the Erma Siegel Chiller

Mr. Anderson explained that we have replaced the chillers at Northfield, Cason Lane, and Black Fox and those upgraded chillers have reduced our energy consumption drastically. The city saw that reduction. The city has approved to pay for replacing the chillers at Erma Siegel and we will reimburse them, but the Board needs to approve this.

Jared Barrett said that Siegel's chiller is an energy hog and asked if we have any other chillers that are energy hogs. Mr. Anderson explained that Siegel is the last one in that group of older chillers. He also explained that the next one to be replaced would be Scales.

Jared Barrett made the motion to approve replacing the Erma Siegel chiller. David Settles seconded the motion. All approved by saying aye.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

Enrollment (PTR) Report

Mr. Anderson explained that we are up 189 students over last year and our attendance is at 96%. He went over pupil teacher ratio by grade groups. He explained that our enrollment has increased this year, but not enough to receive growth money, but Mr. Anderson recently found out that the State decided that they are going to provide growth money to every system. This too will cause more amendments to the budget. He also explained that the kindergarten pre-enrollment is looking strong for next year.

David Settles asked if there was a reason that they just didn't give growth money to everyone. Mr. Anderson explained that last year, they had 19 million dollars and this year they increased that amount to 30 million. They based it on all of the growth in the state.

Mr. Ballard asked if we have taken inventory of the 5th graders that will be moving to the county. Mr. Anderson explained that principals have given students an intent to return form and we should know more before school is out. He told the Board that principals are being encouraged to keep 6th graders engaged so that they will possibly return to our district next year.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Ringstaff how many retirees we had that participated in the incentive program. Mr. Ringstaff said that he thought about ten to twelve. Mrs. Rainier asked if the decision was made to include those that left earlier in the year. Mr. Ringstaff said that he was checking to see what was done in 2011. Mrs. Rainer said that she thought that they were included.

Mrs. Rainier also asked Mr. Ringstaff about teacher absences and the use of substitute teachers. She asked Mr. Ringstaff if he would send the Board an email with days broken down such as sick days, personal days, etc. that teachers are taking. She just wants to know what would constitute \$81,000.00 for substitute teachers.

Mrs. Smith wanted an update on TNReady testing. Dr. Gilbert said that she has received some additional information on the portfolio. She said that we won't know until the middle of July what the rubric looks like. We are doing what we can to prepare teachers for that. She said that will be the major change across the state is preparing teachers for the PreK and Kindergarten portfolio.

Dr. Gilbert asked Mr. Joe Marlin to please give an update on the TNReady. Mr. Marlin said that it does cause a lot of anxiety for students and parents, but all in all it went well. The tests are in the warehouse and will be picked up tomorrow. Mrs. Smith asked if the scores will or will not be included in the report card. Mr. Marlin said that we discussed that briefly at the last board meeting, and his guess is that they won't be back in time. He said that it's a huge process to get everything back.

Nancy Rainier asked if the allotted time per test was different than it has been in the past. She said that the comments that she heard was that students didn't have time to finish some tests. Mr. Marlin said that the state did reduce some of the times, but he has not heard direct feedback from teachers on that. He said that Laurie Offutt probably has heard comments, but Mr. Marlin has not heard anything.

Dr. Gilbert asked Mr. Bartch if he had heard anything about the allotted times on the tests. Mr. Bartch said that to answer Mrs. Rainier's question, he had heard that there may not have been enough time on the math, but all other sections were good. He added that the difference this year was that there was a book for each subject. He said that in the past, it was all done in one book.

Mrs. Smith asked if they completed the test in the book, or did they have an answer sheet. Mr. Bartch said that it depended on the grade. Third grade answered in the book, and fourth through sixth grade had answer sheets. Mrs. Smith added that she had heard the same thing about the time issues, but nothing negative like last year. Mr. Bartch agreed.

David Settles apologized from being late to the meeting tonight. He said that he was coming back from Jackson from a TSBA meeting and the traffic was terrible.

Collier Smith said that she was sure that most of the Board members were getting calls and letters from Discovery parents about the change in bell times. She said that she values the input from the parents and appreciates that they are so involved, and understands that it's an administrative decision. She said that if they didn't send letters, the Board would not have known that they were concerned about that. She asked if Dr. Gilbert wanted to explain the procedures regarding bell times and if parents have other issues that come up, she thinks that it is very important to get input from parents. She said that over 150 parents and grandparents have signed a petition regarding bell times at Discovery School.

Dr. Gilbert said that she really didn't have anything to add. She said that we appreciate the input from parents on this issue.

Mr. Campbell said that he knows that this has been a topic lately, but he also knows that some of the information that he has received from parents is not factual. He wishes that parents knew what they were talking about and had the facts before they made accusations.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jared Barrett made the motion to adjourn. David Settles seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Director of Schools