

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING--
POLICY WORK SESSION
Tuesday, October 12, 2010
6:30 p.m.—Central Administration Building

ATTENDANCE

Board: Chair Mary Wade, Susan Andrews, Nancy Duggin, Nancy Phillips, and Dennis Rainier. Absent: Ray Butrum, Butch Campbell, and Council Liaison Ron Washington.

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Kim Fowler, Cheryl Harris, Karen Hawkins, and Ralph Ringstaff.

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker and Principal Greg Lyles.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wade called the special board meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

II. BOARD POLICY REVIEW -- Passed *First Reading*

1. BO 41—Registered Sex Offenders (Revision)—No additional recommended revisions.
2. PER 14—Application and Employment (Revision)—Recommended revision under “Licensed Employees,” last line of paragraph:
If previously employed by a local board of education and left employment at another school system before the applicant’s contract ended, the applicant shall provide evidence of acceptable resignation.
3. PER 1—Faculty Meetings (Revision)—No additional recommended revisions.
4. PER 31—Training Period for Non-Licensed Personnel (To Delete)—No additional recommended revisions.

III. BOARD POLICY REVIEW FOR *Discussion*

1. IS 12—Grading System (Revision)

Dr. Gilbert explained that a Kindergarten Calendar Committee met and has recommended the changes as indicated on IS 12. Dr. Fowler explained that the move is to a standards-based report card which provides a more specific report for parents of what their child is mastering. Mrs. Hawkins stated that with PLC meetings, teachers have begun conversations and are working to identify what the most essential standards are and what the best sequence is to teach those, eliminating gaps. They are discussing “What does mastery look like?” Mr. Lyles also noted that his teachers are collaborating intensively. Having the standards presented to them as they have been has given them a better opportunity to review and understand what needs to be done.

In response to Mrs. Duggin's question, Mrs. Hawkins stated that the decision was made not to put anything on the report card that would identify a special ed student, but information is contained in the IEP. Mrs. Wade asked how students receive assistance when they may be performing at different levels, and Mr. Rainier asked what others are doing when intervention is taking place. Mr. Lyles replied that this assistance is built into their schedule. They have intervention blocks, interventionists, Title I and special ed teachers with support from Educational Assistants. Students who are performing at a satisfactory level are provided instruction to dig deeper into the standards they are mastering.

2. BO 16—Reimbursement of Expenses for Board Members (Existing Policy)
3. BO 43—Travel Expense Policy (New)
4. BO 44—Reimbursement of Expenses Policy for Murfreesboro City School Board (New)

Mrs. Kelley stated that she has provided the Board a copy of the Board’s existing expenses policy--BO 16. She had talked with the City Manager and City Recorder to determine if the City Manager had experienced any problems with the fact that he signs off on expenses for Council members. Neither stated that a problem existed. Typically, attendance at national meetings has worked out in that Council members have rotated who would attend each year which the School Board could entertain doing. Mrs. Phillips asked that Mrs. Baker talk to some close, surrounding counties to determine how approval of Board member expenses is handled in their school systems. She does not support that responsibility falling on the Director of Schools. Mr. Rainier stated that it had been previously discussed that the Director of Finance could be assigned that responsibility. Dr. Andrews suggested that the policy could read that the Director of

Schools “or his/her designee” would be responsible for approval of Board member expenses.

Mr. Rainier suggested that the policy include language to eliminate payment of expenses for travel within 50 miles, mileage and lodging. Mrs. Duggin added that this is the protocol for the State Department. Dr. Gilbert noted that teachers are not provided lodging when attending meetings within a 50-mile range. Mrs. Wade emphasized that before making a decision, the Board should look at the whole situation and not make a decision that they might have to revisit. She does not feel comfortable traveling late in the evening, or having to walk into dark parking lots after late meetings. Mrs. Baker pointed out that Board Policy BO 43 refers to system employees and BO 44 to Board members, but if the Board wishes to hold themselves to the same standards as system employees, there should be consistency between the two.

Dr. Andrews asked that the Board not eliminate overnight retreats as in the past they have benefited the Board in that they spend time together and become better acquainted with each other. Mr. Rainier agreed as did Mrs. Phillips with the suggestion that retreats could be held in state parks.

Mrs. Baker will check with surrounding school systems on their Board expense procedure and continue to gather information. The policies will be brought back for further review.

IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT OCTOBER 26, 2010 BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Dr. Gilbert reviewed the October 26 draft agenda noting that a celebration for the Mobile Health Unit on October 28 will be added to the agenda. Mr. Anderson shared that on Sunday from 9:30-11:30 approximately 1,000-2,000 volunteers from local churches will be on our school campuses making improvements, donating their time and even providing some light equipment to get the job done. Larry Willeford is to be commended for his work in helping to coordinate these activities. Mr. Anderson also shared information regarding break-ins at Hobgood and Cason Lane.

Mrs. Phillips asked if items could be suggested for the upcoming November 9th retreat agenda. Suggestions included: technology update, scores update, curriculum plan, a Discovery School update, and the evaluation of the Director of Schools. It was suggested that Dr. Gilbert and Mrs. Wade review and prioritize items on the agenda. Mr. Rainier noted that additional items can be provided to the Chair or Director.

Dr. Gilbert stated that eventually the Board will be asked to approve the percent that student TCAP scores will count for a student’s final grade, from 15% to 25%. Dr.

Gilbert supported the lowest percentage, 15%, because it would be ludicrous to think that a student will perform better on TCAP based on the fact that the scores will play into their final grades.

Mrs. Duggin shared that she is concerned that students in elementary school grades K-3 will eventually be expected to take computerized tests. She asked that the Board sanction sending a resolution to TSBA asking that this not happen. She stressed that tests should reveal a student's knowledge in content areas, not their ability to move a mouse/operate a computer. A copy of the proposed resolution is enclosed. Dr. Andrews moved to approve sending the enclosed resolution; Mr. Rainier seconded the motion. On roll call: Andrews—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

Mrs. Duggin also asked that letters be sent to Principals and Assistant Principals in recognition of National Principals' Month. She provided proposed letters that the Board was in agreement to sending.

Dr. Gilbert noted that as of now, test scores are still embargoed. After contacting the State Department, she confirmed that test scores cannot be provided to Board members. Mrs. Duggin added that at the LEAD conference, Mr. Dan Long had also stated that Board members cannot access the embargoed scores as in this situation, Board members are considered public, and information shared with them would have to be made available to the public under the Sunshine Law.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Wade adjourned the special called meeting at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

*To assure academic and personal success
for each child.*

