

MINUTES
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
6:30 p.m.—Central Administration Building

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Marilyn Mathis, Gary Anderson, Cheryl Harris, Michelle Hummel, Danielle Kaminsky, and Lee Wilkerson.

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, *Daily News Journal Reporter* Chasity Gunn, MEA President Debbie Hickerson, principals, and others.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Mary Wade called the Murfreesboro City School Board meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. Principal Chad Fletcher led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of Sarah Malone who passed away Saturday, April 18. Sarah taught children for 42 years, approximately 36 years of that being in the Murfreesboro City School System as both a classroom and a Title teacher at Bellwood and Black Fox Elementary schools.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Phillips moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- City Schools Foundation Treasurer and Trustee, Dr. Max Moss, shared that the Foundation's fundraising efforts have netted approximately \$41,000. The Foundation has designated \$58,000 for grants. He recognized Ms. Barbara Scott, Administrative Assistant, Dempsey, Vantrease & Follis, for her hard work and her role in assuring the success of the Foundation's activities.
- The Board congratulated and presented a certificate of achievement to the following winners in the "Read to Bee" spelling bee held on April 4 at Patterson Park: First Place--Sayoni Ghosh, sixth-grade student in Ms. Christy Mall's class at The Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers; Runner-Up--Mori Fukui, sixth-grade student in Mr. Donley Bragg's class at Erma Siegel Elementary.
- The Board recognized and presented certificates to technicians Joe Golden and Randy Mealer who received the "Top Shop Award" as ninth in the nation and recognition in the March 2009 *School Bus Fleet* magazine for their commitment to safety in keeping the system's 23 school buses and 33 other vehicles in

- excellent working condition. Mrs. Mathis asked their supervisor, Larry Willeford, to stand and be recognized for the high standards he demands. Mrs. Debra Savely, Transportation Supervisor, recommended MCS technicians for the award.
- Director Mathis read the list of BEP Mini-Grant recipients. (List Enclosed)
 - Retiring employees will be honored at a dinner with the School Board on Tuesday, May 19, 6 p.m. at the Stones River Country Club.
 - Teacher Appreciation Week—May 3-9, 2009; National Teacher Day—May 5, 2009
 - Thanks to Education Networks of America for their donation of Wal-Mart gift cards totaling \$500 for distribution to MCS families affected by the tornado.
 - Thanks to General Mills Foundation for the \$5,000 grant to support the “Bridging the Wellness Gap” initiative at Northfield Elementary and the \$10,000 grant for the Get Fit! program offered through the Coordinated School Health Department. Mrs. Mathis shared that Susan Cooper, Tennessee Commissioner of Health, and Titan Chris Hope visited Scales Elementary to help kick off their commitment to maintaining a healthy lifestyle by using their grant money to install a fitness track.
 - Congratulations to Black Fox and The Discovery School, the two top MCS schools in the Red Cross blood drive.
 - Andrea Cain, Coordinated School Health, reports that the system has received a CPR Anytime grant of \$15,000/year for the next three years. The grant will provide sixth-grade students with CPR kits they can take home and teach family members life-saving CPR skills.
 - Congratulations to the Bellwood-Bowdoin Preschool for their recognition by Read to Succeed as the “Best City School Involvement.”

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

On motion by Dr. Andrews and second by Mr. Hopper, the following consent agenda items were unanimously approved:

- A. Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of March 17, 2009, April 8, 2009 Budget Study Session, and April 21, 2009 Budget Study Session
- B. The Family Resource Center Advisory Board
- C. The Inservice Education Steering Committee
- D. The Science Textbook Adoption Committee’s Recommendation: K-5 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt--*Tennessee Science*; Grade 6 Holt McDougal--*Tennessee Holt Science and Technology*

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the FY’10 General Purpose, Federal, Cafeteria and ESP Budgets

Mrs. Mathis pointed out that inserts for the revenue and expenditure sections of the budget notebook have been placed on the Board's desk. The amount that had been included for the purchase of land has been taken out. Mrs. Mathis thanked Golena Bell, Gary Anderson, Larry Willeford, Dan Boshers, Priscilla Van Tries, Danielle Kaminsky, Becky Sally, Crystal (Roshon) Farris, Janet Oakley, JoCarole Woodall, Lee Wilkerson, and all principals for their participation and input in the development of the budget.

Mrs. Mathis reviewed the highlights of the budget noting that it is a status quo budget based on 6,890 students. The expenditure budget is \$51,532,743, an increase of only \$27,811 or a .05% increase over FY'09. No new money has been requested from the city. Pupil:teacher ratios have been kept at 1:20. Step and degree changes of \$445,604, a health insurance increase of \$245,700, a worker's compensation increase of \$90,000, and an unemployment increase of \$5,000 for a total increase of \$786,000 of new money relative to human resources have been put in the budget. In addition, the textbook adoption and replacement text for other adoptions will cost approximately \$700,000. Mrs. Mathis pointed out that to balance the budget, \$1,095,422 will be taken from the fund balance. The ESP budget totals \$2,919,78, School Nutrition \$3,297,191, and Federal Projects \$7,390,528 for a grand total of \$65,140,200 for all budgets.

Mrs. Duggin: We were told we have six schools moving to school-wide Title. What money will be used to move them in that direction? Will it be stimulus money or other money?

Mrs. Mathis: It would be a combination of regular Title and stimulus money. I don't anticipate that would make the expense much more. You are not adding personnel, just redistributing how they are used.

Mrs. Duggin: I was just wondering if we use stimulus money, what position will that put us in two years? There won't be any loss of programs in two years because of no stimulus money?

Mrs. Mathis: No.

Mrs. Duggin: The information that we were given last time in the document regarding school administrators in the schools, there was a percent of individualized plans, how current is this information?

Mrs. Mathis: Mr. Wilkerson developed that for your retreat so it would not be current as it changes all the time.

Mr. Wilkerson: The percentages were based on last school year, but I think they would be very similar to this year. I don't think there would be that much difference from last year to this year. (Correction: Numbers were based on fall 2008.)

Mrs. Mathis:plus our enrollment has not significantly increased.

Mrs. Duggin: But for some of our schools if the number of IEPs went up even five or six children with an enrollment of 341, it could change the percentage of children being served. You said the increase in the budget is about \$27,000 which is unbelievable that you can keep it that low; but that money is that coming out of the reserves also, because we are not getting any more from the city than we have gotten for the past five years?

Mrs. Mathis: The \$27,000 would be part of the \$1 million we are taking from reserves.

Mr. Hopper: I think when you mentioned the \$27,000, it was this year's budget over last year's. So as far as what we are actually looking at, if I interpret this correctly, that our budget for the coming year for what we actually think we will have spent from last year will be 1.9%. Is that correct? If we have salary percentage increases, it will be on top of that.

Mrs. Mathis: Yes. I don't have any (salary) percent increase in the budget.

Dr. Butrum: So, we have not budgeted any money in case we negotiate with the teachers' union to give them an increase?

Mrs. Mathis: Have we told them that yet? We are not to that article yet, so it has not been discussed to this point, but we have steps and degree changes in the budget.

Dr. Butrum: So we are not going to be able to find any raises?

Mrs. Mathis: I don't think at this point with the economy as it is and with our unpredictability of our revenue; I certainly have not included one unless you all go back and direct me to do that. I'll be glad to go back and do whatever you say.

Dr. Butrum: I would like for us to look at some options possibly with the stimulus money for possibly a one-time bonus or something for our teachers. Again, I think they have negotiated for years, and I feel like maybe they feel like they have not come out as well as they should have in the past so I think that is something that I would like for us to look at before we approve the budget to make sure we have looked in every possible area. And I was looking through individual programs and salaries and I am just wondering was there any attempt to make or to reorganize certain programs that we may not feel are as effective at certain schools and giving money to different places. Was there anything done by your staff?

Mrs. Mathis: I don't know what you are suggesting.

Dr. Butrum: Well, I want to jump back to another question that I have. I know we have not budgeted or prioritized for the assistant principals' positions for those who do not have an assistant, and I know we sat here last Tuesday and talked an hour and fifteen minutes about that specific thing, and we were told as a Board that none of the principals come to you all with that request, and within 48 hours after that meeting I had already talked to two principals that said yes we ask for that every year. We asked for it this

year, and we ask for it every year. And when I was with the system for six years, I know I asked for it every year as did the other principals who were at the other schools. I know that for a fact, and it surprises me greatly that we spent so much time here last week and that information was not revealed to us though we asked several times do the principals want these positions. And I talked to several of them including retired principals who were in those positions over the last ten years, and they too said they wanted those positions. And they have been put in the budget every year for the last ten years and then not hired. And then we find out we have programs with balanced literacy, and it's good, but when you have a balanced literacy teacher that is being paid out of the general fund at a school that really doesn't need that specific program, it bothers me that we are not looking at schools that need assistant principals full time as opposed to spending our money there. So I would like for us to do an analysis on how many positions are being paid from general funds, not our federal or title funds. This includes preschool and any other special program positions that we have. I know that we have hired a science coordinator for the system, and then hired that person fulltime this year. I am not sure where those funds came from. I would like to see at least some study on that before I can approve what we have been presented and now I really don't know. It just creates so many more questions for me because I think that the information was here last week when we were asking and we did not receive it. And I think that we may have left this meeting last week with a different opinion about the assistant principals.

Mrs. Mathis: Well, I think I said last week at your meeting as reflected in the minutes that if I were to specifically ask a principal, as you did, if they want an assistant principal they would say yes; but I don't recall any of them coming to me and telling me that they could not do their job without an assistant principal (full-time) and that that was their highest priority.

Dr. Butrum: Mr. Anderson, did any principals approach you and talk to you about this?

Mr. Anderson: When we had our meeting to go over the potential spending of the stimulus money, it was one of the items mentioned that could be used for that. It was in there, but not something that they said, "Hey, I need this." It was saying it was one of the things we could do with this money.

Mrs. Mathis: And it was not listed as a priority item at the last brainstorming session.

Dr. Butrum: As a Board member, I would like for the principals to come to the Board and let us ask them. I really feel like we are not really getting all of the information we need on some of our questions.

Mrs. Phillips: I have to say that I have always found Mrs. Mathis to be a woman of absolute veracity. The second point I would like to ask Mrs. Mathis is what is our typical procedure when we are negotiating? I know that sometimes city hall asks us to put raises in our budget and sometimes to not put them in. Is that correct?

Mrs. Mathis: That is correct.

Mrs. Phillips: So a lot of times, that is out of our hands completely, is it not Mrs. Mathis,

Mrs. Mathis: It would be to the fact that we are trying to work with City Hall. They are our fiscal body, so yes when they make suggestions to us we would follow their suggestions.

Mrs. Phillips: I think that is an important point to make. A third thing, and it is something that Mrs. Duggin brought up, I think a lot of people watching at home don't know what a Title school is.

Mrs. Mathis: A Title school is a school that gets additional funding because of income levels. They have to have met or exceeded the average percent free or reduced of the system. So that is the way you become a Title school, and extra money comes from the federal government to fund those extra teaching positions, the Title positions as such.

Mrs. Phillips: Could you also, for the folks at home, give a brief interpretation of how the stimulus money affects the schools.

Mrs. Mathis: The stimulus money will have a pretty big effect on the city schools. We will get nearly \$2.8 million more dollars over the next two years. We could actually spend it all right now if we wanted to. We could spend it in one year if we wanted to. Our plan is to take about two years to spend it because we believe taking a little more time and using good judgment to spend it is in our best interest. The stimulus money is actually given to close the achievement gap for those children who are not achieving at as high a rate as some other children are. That is the intent of it. So we have been meeting with principals and have received advice from you. The greatest advice we have been given is to not spend it on recurring expenditures because the money is not going to be there, so we are told, after the stimulus goes away. We have gotten extra stimulus money in Title I funds; the other stimulus money is for IDEA which is the special ed law. Of that IDEA money, we have been given \$1,056,000 to spend pretty much as we wish in the system. We could actually spend it on pretty much anything, but we continue to be advised to not spend it on recurring expenditures.

Mrs. Phillips: Mrs. Baker, could you please explain to the Board again, our one employee and the order one would take if one had an issue or complaint. The Board has one employee correct?

Mrs. Baker: Yes, the Board has one employee and the director has the authority to hire personnel for the school system.

Mrs. Phillips: And so there is a very clear and organized method for people within our Murfreesboro City Schools to communicate.

Mrs. Baker: Yes, they are to communicate that information/any complaint to the director.

Mrs. Phillips: To the director and any complaints go to the director.

Dr. Andrews: I just had a couple of comments. Dr. Butrum said there are no assistant principals at some of our schools, but obviously we have at least a half-time assistant principal in all of our schools. He also said that it had been in the budget for the past ten years. It has never reached a priority level to make it into the budget; it has never been in the budget before to increase assistant principals. We have people talk about doing another study on it. We do have a director of schools who is managing the City School System, and I have no reason to believe that she doesn't have the good judgment about who she needs helping her do a really good job. I am just not interested in having our staff spend time on another study at this point. It takes time away from our goal, which is to help our children succeed. Just to kind of clear up a couple of things again, I just wanted to make those statements. Also, in the past, we have never put in raises for teachers in the budget. It is very difficult to put in raises when you are in negotiations. Now whether or not we are going to have any money to agree to pay them is another question. But that has not been a part of our budgeting process to be able to say okay we are going to give them this much or that much. It would make negotiations very difficult.

Mr. Campbell: Dr. Butrum, I too had some conversations. I am glad to know people contacted others besides me on the Board. And Nancy (Phillips) as far as a grievance procedure there is no way we are ever going to prevent teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers, principals from talking to the Board or people in the community about concerns they might have in their building. Whether that is a grievance or not, I don't know, but that is a thing that I guess everybody does. I am sure David or Mary have that at their work. I don't hesitate to take a call or answer emails because the people elected me to be on this board to answer their questions. I, too, would like to see us look hard and heavy, because I know that Patrick McCarthy had pushed for assistant principals, but I would like for us to continue to look at and to bring some closure to the assistant principals at the buildings where we have a lot of students who require an IEP and MT meetings. I use myself as an example. I can understand where that is needed within a school. I know that Murfreesboro City has told us we have X number of dollars. If I walk up and give you \$1,000 and tell you that is all you are going to get, well obviously they have told us that is all we are going to get. It is our job to determine how we are going to spend it and where the best areas to spend it would be. This budget does not have to be presented and finalized tonight. There is nothing that says we have got to have it to Roger Haley by May 1st. I don't think there is a state statute anywhere, there are a lot of school boards that don't present their budgets to county commissions and governing bodies until May. Rutherford County doesn't even approve the budget until July. I don't want us to think we are in a hurry-up, and we have got to get it done quickly if we feel like we need to discuss and fine-tune articles in the budget.

Mrs. Wade: Certainly, I would like to thank the Board for all of their comments. I do ask that we remember to address the question and not the person because everyone is entitled to have their say, so we want to stay with it if I don't agree with something I will state the question and address the question, and I think we will get something resolved tonight. There is nothing wrong with the public or the teachers coming to the Board. When somebody comes to you with a grievance or something to share and they want to go further, listen and then if they want to go further, say here is the chain of command.

Be a good listener because they must feel comfortable coming with you. Tell them what they need to do. We are going back to the budget. I don't know when the budget is due. Has Mr. Haley set a deadline as to when he would like to have this?

Mrs. Mathis: May 1.

Mrs. Baker: Actually in the City Code and Charter.

Mrs. Phillips: I agree with your comment and Mr. Campbell's comment that we are here to listen. My concern is soliciting staff to bypass the chain of command. I do have concerns about that. Mrs. Mathis, can you tell us about any plans to use the stimulus money?

Mrs. Mathis: The section behind Federal and Other Funds. The first budget is on page 82, which is our Title I budget. The \$828,753 is all new money. Ideas are listed and more will be added. Another idea is Saturday Academies to provide extra opportunities for children. Title has restrictions and Mrs. Kaminsky and the state will monitor this to be sure the money is being spent correctly. Some of the ideas listed are: professional development activities, parent education activities, moving target-assisted schools to the school-wide model, math coaching/coaches, curriculum development and writing stipend, extended learning for "at risk" students, maintenance of preschool services and initiatives. No money has been put beside these because we want to make sure this is the direction we want to go as we continue to receive input from our principals and teachers. Stimulus money for IDEA is listed on page 94 and of that \$1.8 million, \$1,056,000 can be used as the system wants. The technology budget was moved onto this page. Other ideas include: professional development, extended learning, teachers and EAs, inclusion specialist, gifted specialist, benefits, bus, and EA training. Mr. Anderson met with the principals to brainstorm and share ideas.

Mr. Anderson: We had discussed ideas and listed these as the most important and are getting clarification on the 15% when it deals with the EIS money. We still have the opportunity to spend the money in other areas, but we did not want to come forth with a plan until we are sure and finalized that we know what we are doing with it.

Dr. Butrum: Can we ask for an extension, Mrs. Baker, to the city for the May 1st since it is just a Charter requirement?

Mrs. Baker: No, that is law adopted by the General Assembly; it's a Code. Sometimes, what we have to do because oftentimes they don't know what all the money is that we will be getting is that they will pass the budget but then you can come back and amend the budget. But you do need to pass one to present to the Council by May 1. You can amend it after the fact.

Dr. Butrum: The \$30,000 we spoke about for ESP, Mrs. Mathis, that we are charging them to use the facilities upstairs...

Mrs. Mathis: The charge is also for the use of the school facilities, not just for upstairs.

Dr. Butrum: I still really feel that we need to reimburse that money back into the ESP budget, if not all of it then \$20,000 of it. I feel like it is inappropriate of us as a system to charge a part of our system this money when they end up with deficits like from the basketball program that we ask them to do. I would hope we would want to give them at least \$20,000 of that \$30,000 back. On the IDEA money, I would like for us to look at the current programs that use IDEA and see if there are any employees or any money that we use out of the general fund that we can use out of IDEA, and I would like for the Board to receive at least a list of those positions for both the federal and the IDEA budgets because I think we could find a lot of money there if we are just creative enough to look at altering a few of our programs. That is all I have right now. I would like to thank Mr. Campbell for his positive comment.

Mrs. Duggin: On page one with the science textbooks, is that going to be enough money to buy enough science textbooks for all students, K-6?

Mrs. Mathis: Yes, we actually have already received the amount.

Mrs. Duggin: How much does the state actually allocate per child?

Mrs. Mathis: I have no idea; when they divide it all up into amounts but when it comes in we can spend it any way we need to. We can look that up if you want us to.

Mrs. Duggin: No, I just know that typically it's not enough for textbooks. Looking on page 82, parent education activities and the possibility of some Saturday academies, I would like to strongly recommend that those Saturday academies also include parenting sessions and as much as possible that it be mandated. I know that you cannot actually mandate but that it be strongly encouraged that if your child is able to participate in this free, you need to attend. I know that Read to Succeed makes a huge positive impact on this community, and of course that is a non-profit organization. Is there a possibility for even a small amount of money being given to them because they constantly give to back to our district?

Mrs. Mathis: I don't know but I will check on that. Mrs. Shaw called me the other day and asked me for some money. And I said I really didn't know how that would work. I would have to check and make sure that we could do that. I suggested that maybe some of the employees that would apparently lose their jobs because she lost one of their grants, that probably they were employees we might be able to use in some of these. I am not sure that is what she was looking for, but we definitely want to work with Read to Succeed so we will check into that.

Mrs. Duggin: Meeting recently with Dr. Gary Nixon who is Executive Director of the State Board, he made the comment that stimulus money across the state could possibly be used to buy additional time with teachers and/or students. I found that rather interesting and intriguing since with new tests next year with the rigors going up significantly that

might be something to put into the mix that we look at making sure with lots of training to help teachers understand the new standards to move students where they need to be. We might keep that as a possibility, of buying more time with our teachers to make sure that they are as knowledgeable as they need to be with this new text, new publisher, and new rigors.

Mrs. Phillips: I think that is a great idea.

Mrs. Wade: You did say if we pass this budget that we can always come back and amend the things we approve tonight.

Mrs. Mathis: Sure. We just need to get a budget to Council so they know what our budget will be.

Mrs. Wade: So, board members, I have heard so many things come by I'm pretty sure we have our own wish list. If possible, I would like to get a motion since we can come back and amend the budget as will be reflected in the minutes for some of the items that we have had a lot of questions about.

Dr. Butrum: How will we know if we vote on this budget that those changes will be made and will be made appropriately and properly?

Mrs. Wade: Well, it is like anything else. To come back and make a change, you have got to vote on the change. It still has to be passed by a vote. If you come back and say I would like to amend it for Mrs. Mathis to hire Mary Wade, it has to be a vote. We all come back and have a discussion at the board meeting, and it still has to go to a vote. That is not to say it will be voted in, but we are going to revisit it. But any way we go, it has to come to a vote.

Dr. Andrews: I think tonight if there are things people want to change, we need to talk about it, and we can vote on it. I guess the place to start would be to have a motion to approve the budget as presented, and if someone wants to second it, they can. Then if someone wants to make amendments or suggestions, they can.

Mr. Hopper: I second the motion.

Dr. Butrum: Now, we are saying that we are going to approve the budget, then talk about it and amend it. If we vote to approve, it's approved, then we are going to turn around and vote to amend it?

Dr. Andrews: You can right now try to amend the budget, before we vote on it if you want to amend the budget.

Dr. Butrum: So if we vote on it now, are we going to turn around and make changes or come back later like you said?

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Mrs. Wade: I would rather us not because we could get fifteen changes in this budget tonight and be here until midnight. Everybody has an idea of what they would like to see in it. It looks better when presented at a formal meeting. Let's approve it. Come back at the next meeting so you can ask questions of Mr. Anderson or Mr. Wilkerson. Why don't we approve it tonight for Mrs. Mathis to present on May 1st, and then at our next board meeting, we can bring these amendments to it.

Dr. Butrum: But I want to make something clear. If we approve the budget tonight, if we start talking about amending next time, I don't want us to be told as Board members we can't talk about that because we have approved the budget and we are trying to micromanage what they are doing with the money. That is our job to make sure that our money, the taxpayers' money, is being spent, and I think we have a lot of questions sometimes about how that money is being spent. If we don't address it now, I don't want to be told at the next meeting that we can't make any changes at that point.

Mrs. Wade: We have already said we can make amendments. Mrs. Baker is here, and that is a question I had. I know there are some things that are out of the jurisdiction of the policymakers. Mrs. Baker is sitting right here, and she does not hesitate to tell us. And thank you for bringing the policies (blue folders), thank you. I do ask if you have questions that may be lengthy for next time, go ahead and do your research and homework before we get started on it and have it in place so we can go ahead and discuss it at the next meeting. I have already answered that we can amend the budget, but it will take a vote. And some things may not get amended, but at least we can have discussion about it.

Dr. Butrum: Well, I just want to make sure that we get the correct information because at this point I don't think the information we have been given is not really as correct as it could have been so it leaves a lot of questions.

Dr. Andrews: I did move to pass the budget as it is. I do think there are people who have suggestions. It will take a long time to do it so we might as well go ahead and work on those things tonight. I really don't think the situation is going to change by next time and it's still going to be another long discussion, and we are going to talk about the things we talked about tonight so I would like to go ahead and move forward. That is my personal opinion. I certainly see your point, but we have talked about it tonight and a couple other issues at other times and if we bring it up again, we are going to be making the same statements over again that have been made tonight. Let's go ahead and deal with issues that people are uncomfortable about and vote them up or down.

Dr. Butrum: I need some more information on some of the issues though.

Dr. Andrews: I am not sure what information we need.

Mrs. Wade: If a board member has questions, I would rather not vote on it.

Mr. Campbell: Dr. Andrews you made a motion to approve the budget as is. In order for us to make any changes, you would have to rescind the motion, am I right Mrs. Baker?

Mrs. Baker: Well, she could agree to amend her motion to include any of the changes, or she could rescind her motion and someone could make a new motion to adopt the budget as amended.

Mr. Campbell: You are telling us that according to the City Charter for Murfreesboro City Government this budget has to be presented to the City Manager by May 1st.

Mrs. Baker: Right, and it will be presented to City Council at the first Council meeting after May 1st.

Mr. Campbell: So that is not a state statue.

Mrs. Baker: It is City Charter which is adopted and passed by the General Assembly.

Mr. Campbell: I said something about how I too was contacted. Dr. Butrum, you and I were not the only board members who were contacted. At least that was what I was told, but every board member may not admit it but that is what I was told. I'll leave it at that.

Dr. Butrum: Thank you.

Mrs. Wade: Now that we are back to the approval of the agenda, do you hold to your motion and second.

Dr. Andrews: Yes.

On roll call: Duggin—yes; Hopper—yes; Phillips—yes; Andrews—yes; Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

Mrs. Duggin: Before we move on, and this is still on the budget, since we have not gotten additional money for six years from the city if I am accurate and this year we have had to dip into our fund balance for \$1,095,422, what is the procedure for approaching the City Council early like just as soon as this is presented to them and start talking about the need for additional money, possibly. I know we don't know what our economy is going to look like a year from now but at some point there is going to be no more money to take out of the fund balance. I don't know what that procedure would be, but I feel like there needs to begin to be some communication maybe in a little bit different way than we have needed to do in the past because it is a new day.

Mrs. Mathis: You can do it however you wish, but the typical procedure would be that you write a budget that would say that you need X number of dollars from the city to balance it. I mean instead of taking the money from fund balance if you wanted to ask the city for that additional money, you could do that. But with the fund balance that we have, I doubt it would be granted.

Mrs. Duggin: And I understand that, but I am just thinking about in the future at some point we can't continue tipping into the fund balance at that level. But it is my understanding that even before the budget is decided that we have been told how much money we can have.

Mrs. Mathis: We just met with Mr. Haley on Monday so we have not been told that in advance. I just wrote the budget this way. You all could have asked that we ask for more money by adding more expenditures to the budget, and therefore you could say well I would like for our source of revenue to be that we appeal to City Council. That is a way that it could have been done.

Mrs. Duggin: And I don't think with everything considered that we should be asking for more money this year, but I am just thinking about in the future because every year we are going to have needs and greater needs as the system continues to grow. And I have also been contacted by several people this week unsolicited that they contacted me about issues with assistant principals.

Mrs. Mathis: Did our principals contact you?

Mrs. Duggin: Yes, I have spoken to some principals but also to assistant principals just sharing concerns. I try to go through the protocol of reminding them have you spoken with their principal because I do believe in following protocol up the line and in some cases they have and in some cases they haven't.

Mrs. Mathis: Well, I would like for you all to know that some of the principals have called me in regard to your calls and what they have said is that this was not their top priority. Their top priority was more help in the classroom, so I do remain confused on the issue because I am not getting the same information that you all are. And I apologize for that inconsistency because I know it is very confusing to you as it is to me. If that is the direction in which you wish to go, I am certainly not going to deny it. You know that.

Dr. Butrum: Well, I think the fact that it has come up so many times, we really need to look at it. And some of the principals and people that I spoke to also did have a concern about speaking with a board member. One of them actually told me they were told not to talk to us.

Mrs. Mathis: Who would have told you that? I have never told anyone not to talk to a board member, and I want you to know that in public.

Dr. Butrum: Well, that is not what I was told.

Mrs. Mathis: Well, it's always you never tell me who it is. There is no way to know.

Dr. Butrum: Because they told they would fear retaliation so I agreed not to mention their names.

Mrs. Mathis: Well they (principals) are telling me it is “not true.” Everybody in the audience, so I think that should be reflected.

Mr. Hopper: I want to hear this.

Mrs. Wade: I need some clarification. Mrs. Baker, rule of order. The conversation that is transpiring in and out, do you need to say anything to us or does somebody need to be recognized? We are on the budget and I’d like to stay on the budget. I don’t think this is the time for that right now. Out of respect for the Board and the listening audience, let’s stay with the agenda. If we are going to start taking comments from the audience, that is something else.

Mrs. Baker: That is your, as the chair, your prerogative whether or not you want to open the meeting to take comments from someone you want to hear from, but you should stick with the agenda.

Mrs. Wade: If it is the wishes of the Board, we will stick with the agenda and carry on. There are some housekeeping things we need to do but this is not the time and place to do it.

B. Approval to Apply for NCLB Consolidated Title Applications I Through VI

Mrs. Mathis: Actually, this is a formality that you approve for us to apply for federal, this is No Child Left Behind, consolidated Title applications I through VI.

Mr. Hopper moved to approve application for NCLB Consolidated Title Applications I Through VI; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion.

On roll call: Hopper—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Andrews—yes; Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Wade—yes.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Update on Homeless Families/Tornado Victims

Mrs. Kaminsky provided a PowerPoint for the Board regarding homeless children and how they are served in the school system. The McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is authorized under the No Child Left Behind Act and assures that educational continuity under a time of transition for the students and families is maintained and that schools identify and enroll students who meet the definition of homeless. MCS takes three steps to identify students who are homeless: 1) identify and refer students flagging them using an enrollee screening form received from all students at registration, 2) gather information through guidance counselors and community outreach coordinators, and conduct visits with all of these families, and 3) disseminate information to our families informing them of health and support services available

through the school system and outreach organizations. Numbers regarding McKinney Vento students fluctuate throughout the school year, but we are asked to provide the state with numbers annually which we reported on March 19. Seventy-six students were identified and served this year. Twenty-four students are no longer enrolled in our district, but were identified. Fifty-two remain in our district and are active: 15 in shelters, 29 doubled-up, and 18 in hotel/motels, and 0 in cars or trailers. In the past, MCS has not received funding but due to stimulus funding this year, the system is receiving \$8,919.67. The stimulus money is to be spent on Title X homeless students for educational services, professional development, coordinating comprehensive services provided by our schools with other agencies, and comprehensive services such as medical, dental, and other health-related needs, the transportation for children, receipt of school records and school supplies. The system identified 30 students displaced as a result of the tornado. This information was reported to the state, and we have been provided with a tornado relief grant of \$27,500. Mrs. Kaminsky stated that she wanted to applaud the outreach team who worked tirelessly to make sure every family was identified and worked throughout the year to make sure these children were served: Candy Clifford, April Hall, Cheryl Harris, Ruth Gonzales-Hill, Michelle Hummel, Connie Middleton, Dena Oneal, Micky Brooks, and Trent Cheeves. The Monday morning following the tornado, she stated she could not have been prouder of this group on the job they did to help these families. Also as a team, they want to thank Kim Snell who works in the county and works with us to help share information. Mrs. Kaminsky also recognized Mrs. Mathis stating that she deserved a big round of applause for working with the State Department and local politicians to get the system's TCAP window expanded and changed which provided a great deal of relief to the families and teachers.

Candy Clifford, Outreach Coordinator, stated that following the tornado, all schools were contacted to determine what students/families had been impacted by the tornado. Every family was contacted to find out what their needs were. She then contacted the families to verify what they needed and to let them know what we could offer. The major things they wanted were book bags and school supplies for their children as these were lost in the tornado. Every child that needed these items was provided them. The other item requested was Easter baskets which ESP provided as they had just had a contribution of these items from Wal-Mart. Also, transportation picked children up from local hotels and delivered them to school. A few field trips were paid for. She stated they really worked as a team. Northfield had a spa day for the mothers and gave them decorating books for use at their new location. Mitchell-Neilson families were invited to speak with counselors and ask how to help their children cope with the situation. Within a week, the needs had been met for these families. McKinney Vento and tornado families were treated with much respect and confidentiality. The main concern is to make sure the students' education is not interrupted. Relationships are developed with each family as each has a story to tell.

Mrs. Phillips thanked Mrs. Clifford for her enthusiasm and dedication. Mrs. Wade added that Board members were also concerned about our students and families during this trying time.

B. Personnel Update (Tab 2)

Mrs. Mathis shared the following personnel information noting that a full retirement list will be provided at a later date:

1. Completion of Ninety Days:

Sherry Bunt	E.A.	Northfield
Kristie Huff	Spec. Ed. E.A.	Bradley
2. Licensed Personnel--Retirements, Resignations, Deceased 2008-09
School Year

C. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 3)

Mrs. Mathis reported that the system's revenue now exceeds expenditures and that Mrs. Bell or Mr. Anderson are available to answer any questions the Board might have.

Dr. Butrum: Mrs. Bell, so we are operating \$2.5 million to the good right now.

Mrs. Bell: Yes.

Dr. Butrum: Okay, when that money rolls over to our new budget, has that been accounted for in our budget or is that going to be \$2.5 million that we have that we didn't account for in the budget because we really don't know how much will end up rolling over.

Mrs. Bell: Well, January probably through March, we received most of our revenue so towards the end of the year expenditures and revenue will balance out again.

Dr. Butrum: So whatever doesn't balance out because we budgeted we would have that access. So it looks like we could probably have a large excess this year, right?

Mrs. Bell: No, because we have received probably the bulk of our revenue now and the amount of revenue is large in February and March and in May we don't receive any state funds and that is over \$2 million a month.

Dr. Butrum: Well that will be interesting to look at in June.

Dr. Andrews: I was looking at where we were with revenues compared to last year, and we are about 1.3% behind where we were last year. That may not sound like a lot, but that can end up being quite a bit of money. The good thing is you have managed our expenditures very conservatively so we are behind on expenditures about the same amount, so hopefully it will turn out okay. I think you have been very aware of approaching problems and have been spending our money conservatively, and I appreciate that.

Mrs. Mathis: I to want to acknowledge Mr. Anderson's going through our budget and looking at ways we can save money item after item to see if there is a way to save money, working with our maintenance supervisor and all of those who do spend a lot of money, except for utilities that continue to escalate.

D. Attendance Report (Tab 4)

Mrs. Mathis reported that the seventh-month attendance report reflects a K-6 enrollment of 6,901 students (including special ed pre-k), and another 373 students in our regular pre-k. Enrollment decreased from last month by one student; however, Black Fox gained six students and John Pittard lost nine students so there is a lot of moving around.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hopper: I would personally like to thank Mrs. Mathis on her composure and professionalism in tonight's meeting and the way she has responded to a lot of Board questions. I think you have done an excellent job, and I would like to commend you for that.

Mrs. Mathis received an ovation from the audience.

Mrs. Wade: Board members, I would like for you to read before the next meeting the board policy "School Board Accountability Standards." It is a good policy to read as it tells us about our relationship to everything that applies to board members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hopper seconded the motion. Chair Wade adjourned the Murfreesboro City School Board meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

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