

## MINUTES

### MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

6:30 p.m.—Central Administration Building

#### ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Marilyn Mathis, Gary Anderson, Crystal Farris, Michelle Hummel, Danielle Kaminsky, Priscilla Van Tries, and Lee Wilkerson.

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, *Daily News Journal* Reporter Chasity Gunn, *Murfreesboro Post* Reporter Michelle Willard, 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 Barbara Sales led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

##### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Nancy Duggin and second by Mr. Hopper, the agenda as presented was approved by acclamation.

##### III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Wade commended Director Marilyn Mathis for her service to the children of Murfreesboro for the past 26 years. She praised her for her dedication, professionalism, and efforts to keep all initiatives focused on what is best for children. Dr. Andrews and Mrs. Phillips echoed their praise of Mrs. Mathis's service to the system. Mr. Hopper stated that having worked with Mrs. Mathis during her entire career, he too recognized her professionalism, ethics, and dedication to supporting the teachers and providing children with the best education possible. Mrs. Mathis received a standing ovation from the Board, principals, and all in attendance. Mrs. Mathis stated that she is proud of everyone's teamwork to accomplish the goals set for the system. She is proud of

- the schools that are so well maintained, and the new schools that are funded through the City Council's support. She praised the administration, teachers, support staff at central office, and all other support services. She thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support in providing schools and helping the Board avoid overcrowding situations. Director Mathis's retirement is effective October 1, 2009. A reception to honor her years of service to the Murfreesboro City Schools will be held on September 23, 2009, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., at John Pittard Elementary.
- Congratulations to Principal Catherine Stephens who has been named Coordinated School Health "Principal of the Year" for the State of Tennessee. She will be recognized at the October board meeting.
  - Congratulations to Ms. Suzy Willis, third grade teacher at Cason Lane, who has been selected as Channel 2's "Teacher of the Week". Ms. Willis will be featured on Thursday, September 24, on the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. news and again on Friday, September 25, between 6-7 p.m.
  - Congratulations to Board member Nancy Phillips who was awarded Boardmanship Level III at the recent TSBA District meeting.
  - TSBA's Leadership Conference and Convention will be held November 14-17, 2009 at the Opryland Hotel with the theme: *Empowering Excellence*. Mrs. Mathis stated that the Board hosted TSBA's District meeting at John Pittard Elementary, and Principal Barton and Cheryl Harris did an outstanding job making the arrangements for the meeting.
  - All Murfreesboro City Schools will participate in Read to Succeed's "Reading in the Schools Day" to be held on September 24, 2009.
  - Thanks to the Smyrna Bowling Center for their \$500 donation to Cason Lane Academy and to MNE.
  - Mitchell-Neilson Elementary thanks Stones River Church of Christ and Calvary Baptist Church for their donation of student backpacks and Office Depot for donating two-way radios for use during dismissal.
  - Erma Siegel Elementary thanks Mrs. Kristy Hawkins and Mrs. Kyne Peterson who awarded Erma Siegel \$500 each from a State Farm Grant and Geoffrey Herrings, Insured Financial Solutions, for his donation of \$500.
  - Scales Elementary thanks Kroger on Cason Lane for their donation of \$800 worth of school supplies.
  - Cason Lane Academy fourth grade teacher Felecia Jackson shares that four students were recognized in the Tennessee Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom Poster Contest: Brandon Turman, Third Place; Honorable Mention: Marissa McCall, Michelle Davis, McKenzie Ogg, and Kim Vonsiharath.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

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

- A. Minutes of the Tuesday, August 25, 2009 Regularly scheduled board meeting and the September 1, 2009 Special Called Board Meeting
  - B. Certification of Compliance with TCA Section 49-3-310(4)(A)—Textbooks
  - C. MCS Administrator Extended Learning Plan, 2009-2010
  - D. The 2009-2010 Extended Learning Programs Proposal
- V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Board Policies (Tab 2)

- 1. *New Board Policies:* PER 44—Employee Use of Internet/Electronic Mail  
PER 45—Web Pages
- 2. *Revised Board Policy:* STU 37—Student Use of Internet  
[Replaces Existing STU 37—Internet Access by  
Students (Regular and Extended Time)]

Mrs. Mathis explained that the policies pertain to use of the Internet and were provided at the Board's June retreat for their review. Mrs. Baker has done a superior job developing the policies to assure proper use of the Internet by personnel and by children. Board policies can be reviewed and revised at any time it is deemed necessary. The student use of the Internet policy was placed in the Parent Handbook, and teachers at the beginning of the school year would have collected appropriate student permission forms.

Mr. Hopper moved to approve the policies as presented; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion. Mrs. Baker shared that these policies are not only based on federal statutes but also on the changes made by the State Legislature. The policies pull from the procedure the system already has in place through administrative directives. Mrs. Duggin thanked Mrs. Baker for very well done policies. Mrs. Baker stated this was already placed in the student handbook and there is a link on the system's website that will take you to the federal website that will empower parents with a lot of information on protecting their children when using the Internet. Mrs. Mathis added that our Internet provider blocks all inappropriate websites at schools. Dr. Andrews asked if the intent of the policy was that without parent permission they could not get on a computer at all. Mrs. Baker stated that anytime students are on a computer, they can access the Internet. Mrs. Mathis stated that

principals are responsible for the collection of parent consent forms, classroom by classroom, so all forms should have been collected.

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

## VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

### A. Personnel Update (Tab 3)

Mr. Wilkerson thanked his department, Jo Lasater, Pam Holden, and Gloria Williams, for the excellent job they do in the Human Resources Department. He reported that 32 new teachers have been hired and 14 interims put in place as of September 8.

1. New Teachers Hired 2009-2010
2. Interim Teachers Hired 2009-2010

### B. Summer School Report – Crystal Farris (Tab 4)

Mrs. Farris reported that 945 students participated in the academic enrichment programs, Youth Leadership Camp, and Kindercamps under the supervision of 79 certified teachers. Attendance decreased in the summer; however, more extended contracts were used during the regular school year to serve those students after school through tutoring, etc. Kindercamp serves incoming kindergarteners providing some pretesting and instruction to prepare them to enter school in the fall. Mrs. Phillips suggested that Kindercamps be marketed through the media to help make more parents aware of the program. The academic program focuses on math, reading, writing, science, ELL opportunities, and technology. Mrs. Duggin commented that she had an opportunity to attend the Youth Leadership Camp and suggested that it be offered at two sites on opposite sides of the city so more students can participate. Mrs. Farris explained that teachers recommend two fifth-graders from each school to participate in the program.

### C. Utilities Usage Report – Gary Anderson (Tab 5)

Mrs. Mathis explained that Mr. Anderson had put in place some incentives to help encourage everyone to be conservative and to save energy. Principals were excited because a percentage of the savings would be returned to the schools for professional development, etc.

Mr. Anderson explained that with energy costs increasing by as much as 20%, an energy conservation program was initiated throughout the district. The report behind tab 5 is

broken down by school and reflects an increase or decrease in usage of electricity, natural gas, and water. The system saved 619,000 KWH, 32,854 CCF, and 4,088,485 gallons of water for a total system savings of \$131,116.68. During the process, two water leaks were discovered that might not have been if usage were not being monitored. Principals agreed to evenly split the \$43,269 that would be provided to schools for professional development, etc. He congratulated the principals, teachers, food service, and all involved in making this effort. In response to Mr. Hopper's question, Mr. Anderson stated that some of the recommendations were used from a previous energy consultant, engineering firm, and architecture firm. Mechanical changes were made, and efforts were made to change habits of individuals such as turning off lights, keeping exterior doors closed, making sure water is not left running, etc. The two major initiatives to save money involve HVAC and lighting.

D. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 6)

Mrs. Mathis reported that two months into the year, expenses exceed revenue by approximately \$3.6 million. It is very important to have a fund balance to cover this until revenue from sales tax and property tax is received, typically by February or March. Mr. Anderson stated that the system is pretty much on target this month. Mr. Hopper stated that, as Mrs. Duggin had requested earlier, he would like to see some projections on revenue. Mr. Anderson replied that he would as soon as he starts to receive revenue and can determine how the situation looks. Mrs. Duggin added that the Board should be aware of what the City is doing with its employees and also be aware that additional funding may not be available next year. The Board should be proactive instead of reactive to the situation.

E. Attendance Report (Tab 7)

Mrs. Mathis reported that the system's K-6 enrollment, which includes special ed preschool, totals 6,914 students. The system serves an additional 376 regular ed preschool students. Compared to last year in this same month, enrollment has increased by 41 students, or .6%. We are on target with where we budgeted for 6,890 students. If the system continues to grow, we may receive growth money. She reported that attendance is 92%, which is phenomenal in light of the H1N1/flu situation.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell commented that he wanted to thank Mrs. Mathis for her service, for her conversations with him, and the professional way in which she has served the system.

Board Meeting Minutes  
Page 6  
September 22, 2009

Mrs. Wade stated that Mrs. Mathis has been a great captain. Outgoing Director of Schools Mrs. Mathis received another standing ovation.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Wade adjourned the regularly scheduled Board meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.

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Director of Schools

#### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

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