

MINUTES

MURFREESBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

6:30 p.m.—Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Director Linda Gilbert, Gary Anderson, Caresa Brooks, Crystal Farris, Kim Fowler, Cheryl Harris, Karen Hawkins, Michelle Hummel, Priscilla Van Tries, and Ralph Ringstaff.

Others: City Attorney Susan McGannon.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Mary Wade called the Board meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Phillips and second by Mr. Rainier, the agenda was approved as presented by acclamation.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Congratulations to Board member Nancy Phillips and “Murph” as Murph has been named the spokesbunny for the Murfreesboro Half Marathon Run to be held on October 16th and the run has been named in his honor: *Murph’s Fun Run*.
- *Congratulations to Board member Nancy Duggin who received her Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Boardmanship pins at TSBA’s District Meeting on September 23.*
- TSBA’s Leadership Conference and Convention will be held November 13-16 at the Renaissance Hotel and Nashville Convention Center.
- All Murfreesboro City Schools participated in Read to Succeed’s “Reading in the Schools Day” held on September 17, 2010.
- Congratulations to John Pittard teacher, Ms Ashleigh Stone, who will present at the Middle Tennessee Writing Project’s 2010 Fall Writing Conference on the topic: *Writing in the Social Studies Classroom*.

- Thanks to Restoration Fellowship Church for their donation of backpacks and to Lascassas Kroger for their donation of school supplies to John Pittard Elementary students.
- Thanks to Howard and Sally Wall for their generous contribution of \$12,500 in support of Black Fox Elementary School.
- Thanks to Progressive Baptist Church and Pastor James Mooney for their donation of school supplies to Mitchell-Neilson Elementary.
- Thanks to the grant writing capabilities of Assistant Principal Michelle McVicker, Hobgood Elementary has received a \$4,020 grant from the Siegel Foundation to purchase Smart Boards and projectors to enhance their technology program.
- Dr. Gilbert introduced the following employees asking each to provide information regarding their responsibilities:
Stephanie Stavinoga—Behavior Specialist
Kathy Ferrell—Community Health Outreach Coordinator
Tonya Hobbs—Social Worker
Andrea Bell—Family Mentoring/Outreach Coordinator
Marisela Tapia—ELL Family Liaison

Bradley Principal Chad Fletcher shared with the Board the importance of the support positions that provide the needed safety net for students to achieve all they can be.

Caresa Brooks—Coordinator of Reading/Instructional Interventions
Crystal Farris—Coordinator of Federal Projects and School Support Services
Kim Fowler—Coordinator of Teaching and Learning
Karen Hawkins—Coordinator of Curriculum
Michelle Hummel—Coordinator of Special Projects

Mitchell-Neilson Primary Principal Robin Newell shared with the Board how the initiatives, PLC's, Mobile Health Unit, and principals' meetings with Bob Eaker, Colleen Goss, Jackie Johnson, Dr. Vincent Windrow, as well as other facilitators have provided support and learning for them to better address the needs of the students.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

On motion by Dr. Butrum and second by Mr. Rainier, the following consent agenda items were approved by acclamation:

- A. Minutes of the Tuesday, August 24, 2010 Regular Board Meeting and September 21, 2010 Special Called Board Meeting/Policy Work Session

- B. Certification of Compliance with TCA Section 49-3-310(4)(A)—
Textbooks
- C. Textbook Adoption Committee
- D. MCS Administrator Extended Learning Plan, 2010-2011
- E. The 2010-2011 Extended Learning Programs Proposal
- F. The ESP Advisory Board
- G. School Fees
- H. Board Policies—*Second Reading*
 - ~FM 11—Personal Property Sales
 - ~IS 6—Parent and Family Involvement
 - ~STU 1—Emergency Closings

V. SAVE ACT PUBLIC HEARING

(SAVE Act is available on MCS Web Site: www.cityschools.net)

Mrs. Wade announced that pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-808, the Board is conducting a public hearing regarding the SAVE Act Plan. She opened the public hearing asking if any persons wished to step forward to the microphone for comments. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board Adoption of SAVE Act

Dr. Gilbert stated that the SAVE Act Plan is required by the state to identify how the system as a whole would respond to emergency situations (safety, emotional, catastrophic) with clearly defined procedures for various departments: administration, principals, teachers, transportation, etc. A copy of the plan is included in the official minutes notebook. On motion by Mr. Campbell and second by Mrs. Duggin, the SAVE Act Plan was approved as presented by acclamation.

B. Election of Board Chair and Board Vice Chair

City Attorney Susan McGannon explained that according to Board Policy BO 3 and according to state statute 49-2-202 and section 25-6 of the Murfreesboro city Code, board officers are to be elected annually. The state mandates that the Board elect a board chair and vice chair. The term for the officers to be elected would be from November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2011. Nominations for board chair will be given followed by a roll call for votes and then nominations will be taken for vice chair with roll call to follow. A majority, which is four affirmative votes, is necessary for one to be voted into office. Board officers cannot be elected by acclamation.

Ms. McGannon called for nominations for Board Chair. Mrs. Phillips nominated Mrs. Wade; no other nominations were made so nominations were closed. On roll call: Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. Mrs. Wade was elected Board Chair.

Ms. McGannon called for nominations for Board Vice Chair. Dr. Butrum nominated Mrs. Duggin; no other nominations were made so nominations were closed. On roll call: Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Phillips—yes; Rainier—yes; Wade—yes. Mrs. Duggin was elected Vice Chair.

C. Approval of Board Policies—First Reading (Tab 2)

~BO 41—Registered Sex Offenders (Revision)

Ms. McGannon explained that due to the recent change in state law, registered sex offenders can now only attend parent conferences and not scheduled events or activities as specified in the revised policy presented behind Tab 2. Mrs. Phillips moved to approve BO 41—Registered Sex Offenders as presented behind Tab 2; Mrs. Duggin seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

~PER 14—Application and Employment (Revision)

Ms. McGannon explained that a probationary 90-day period is recommended for deletion as support personnel employment is by annual contract. On motion by Dr. Butrum and second by Mrs. Duggin, PER 14—Application and Employment was approved as presented behind Tab 2 by acclamation.

~PER 1—Faculty Meetings (Revision)

Ms. McGannon explained that the revisions to the existing Board Policy PER 1—Faculty Meetings were made to bring the policy into compliance with the Board/MEA contract. On motion by Dr. Butrum and second by Mr. Rainier, PER 1—Faculty Meetings was approved as presented behind Tab 2 by acclamation.

~PER 31—Training Period for Non-Licensed Personnel (To Delete)

For the same reason as explained for PER 14, Ms. McGannon explained that Board Policy PER 31—Training Period for Non-Licensed Personnel be deleted. Mr. Rainier moved to approve the deletion of PER 31; Dr. Butrum seconded the motion. The motion was approved by acclamation.

D. Approval of Moving Dates of Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dr. Gilbert asked that Principal Emily Spencer explain why the recommendation is being made to move Parent/Teachers Conferences on the 2010-11 calendar from November 1-12 to October 25-November 5. Mrs. Spencer explained that the first report card is presented to parents at parent/teacher conferences. The date that parent/teacher conferences are currently scheduled is four weeks into the next grading period and at a time when mid-progress reports are due; parents are not given a timely report of student progress. In addition, the kindergarten report card has been revised. A timely report to parents can be made by moving the parent/teacher conferences back to October 25-November 5. Dr. Gilbert noted that parent/teacher conferences are designated as a Board Administrative Day in the teachers' 200-day calendar, requiring six hours outside of the regular instructional day. She also noted that the proposed change still gives teachers the required five-day period following the last day of the grading period for the preparation of report cards. MCS has four grading periods consisting of nine weeks each.

Mrs. Phillips moved to approve rescheduling Parent/Teacher Conferences to October 25-November 5; Mr. Rainier seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

VII. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Report on First Half-Day Professional Development

Dr. Gilbert explained that the system has experienced its first half-day for professional development centered around Professional Learning Communities. She asked that Educational Assistant June Fuqua share her experiences on that day and that Principal Emily Spencer speak to the professional development that took place at her school.

Mrs. Fuqua stated that she as well as other instructional E.A.'s attended the "Learning Hands-On Phonics" conducted by the system's own Judith Oliff. She felt better educated on ways to provide support in the classroom, and felt more effective in her role of supporting the teacher as she teaches reading and spelling. She thanked Dr. Gilbert for being with them that day and providing them an opportunity to better support teachers and children. Mrs. Spencer stated that from the principal's perspective, her teachers spent an extended amount of time together with all having a "voice". MCS is moving in

the right direction. Teachers received clarification as they shared ideas, discussed issues, and solutions to those issues. Dr. Gilbert noted that the system focus was on math standards. Mrs. Phillips stated that she is glad to see that E.A.'s are included in professional development.

B. Personnel Update (Tab 3)

Dr. Gilbert shared the following personnel information contained behind Tab 3.

1. Retirements, Resignations, Leaves of Absence
2. Other Information*Certified Personnel

C. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 4)

Mr. Anderson reported that the system has completed 16.7% of the fiscal year. The cash flow is a negative \$2,528,812 but is better than last year at this time and is on target. Expenditures are at 12.4% compared to 14.3% last year. In response to Dr. Butrum, Mr. Anderson explained that other than General Purpose funding, we must spend the money appropriated through grants and then apply for reimbursement to our General Purpose. Dr. Butrum stated that he would like to have a report on positions, teaching and educational assistants, spent through funding that expires in one to two years as he referred to this as "scattered" spending. Dr. Gilbert stated that she had already provided this information to him as well as to all Board members. However, she stated that if he requested additional specific information, she would provide it.

D. Attendance Report (Tab 5)

Mr. Anderson reported that current enrollment is 6,898 students; the budget was prepared for a projected enrollment of 6,890 students. Attendance is 97.7%. Pupil:Teacher ratios are: K-3 – 18.47 to 1; 4-6 – 19.9 to 1. In response to Mrs. Phillips' question regarding growth, Mr. Anderson stated that we budgeted zero growth due to the anticipated loss of some sixth grade students.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Butrum stated that he would like to see the mini-retreat date moved since one Board member, Mr. Campbell, would be unable to attend on October 12. Mr. Rainier stated that with the issues to be discussed, it might require more time than that scheduled. Dr. Butrum moved that the date of the retreat be changed to allow all Board members to attend; Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The Board will still meet to review board policies on October 12.

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

Mrs. Wade asked Mrs. Ridley to poll the Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Murfreesboro City School Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

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