



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes for August 10, 2020

The Maryville Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on July 14 at Maryville Jr. High School. Board members present were Nick Black, Chad Hampton, Julie Elder, Candy Morgan, and Bethany Pope. Chairman Black called the meeting to order promptly at 5:30 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Principal Lisa McGinley.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Mrs. McGinley presented a video update that demonstrated the many ways the pandemic has interrupted the lives of students and staff, but how adaptable and cooperative everyone has been. She expressed her appreciation to the school family for continuing to be flexible and understanding throughout the fall and until a vaccination for COVID-19 is available. She commented that, "While the new school year is not ideal, the response from everyone has been terrific." Mrs. McGinley also shared photos of a bench in honor of Boone Dixon – MJHS teacher who passed away in the spring of 2020 and who is greatly missed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Black called for a vote to adopt the meeting agenda. Chad Hampton made the motion for the agenda adoption. Julie Elder seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Elder made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Bethany Pope seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve minutes of July 13, 2020 meeting
2. Approve Board Policy Manual section 4.205, 6.304, 6.304-1, and 6.319 on second reading.
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for ScanSnap Scanners
 - a. Funding source: Federal Programs - IDEA Innovation Grant
4. Approval Maryville Jr. High School 9th grade band students overnight trip to ETSBOA All-State East Senior Band Clinic in Gatlinburg

5. Approve Maryville Jr. High School 9th grade band students overnight to TMEA All-State Conference in Nashville
6. Nominate Candy Morgan as a candidate for TSBA Vice-President
7. Approve purchase of Schools PLP Enrolled User License from Learning Partners.
 - a. Funding source: Instructional Supplies and Materials - \$16,800.00

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider FY20 Final Budget Amendment

- a. In her last board meeting before relocating to Georgia, Kathy Smith provided estimates to the fund balances for major accounts on the FY20 budget, pending outcome of the audit scheduled for later in August.
- b. Mr. Hampton made a motion to approve the budget amendments and the second came from Bethany Pope. Motion approved.

2. Consider the 2021-2022 Maryville City Schools Calendar

- a. Based on the positive experience by teachers, administrators, and students during the first two days of the current school year, a change to the 2021-2022 calendar would provide for a staggered schedule the first two days of school. Rather than having all students on campus at one time, this allows for a more orderly way to ease-in to new schools, new classrooms, new protocols, and more.
- b. The motion to approve was presented by Candy Morgan, with a second from Bethany Pope.
- c. In the document provided to the board, a typo was removed by amendment to the original motion. This amendment was offered by Candy Morgan and seconded by Bethany Pope.
- d. The calendar change was approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Winstead discussed the first two weeks of school and expressed gratitude to the teaching staff, support staff, administrators, and parents. He reviewed enrollment at 5,372 in K-12 and an 80/20 split between traditional and digital learners. Five new digital instructors were recently hired for K-4 and the effort to stay informed and responsive to every-changing COVID-19 protocols is somewhat overwhelming. He also shared the good news that data around COVID cases is trending in the right direction throughout Blount County.

Winstead shared the process of updating schedules in response to community and school statistics. He noted that the burden on families who selected the traditional learning option is enormous, but the goal is to get students in front of teachers as quickly and safely as possible. Schedule changes will be announced every two weeks, on or before the Wednesday before the new schedule would begin on Monday.

With regard to facilities, Dr. Winstead said the Sam Houston Elementary project should be completed in 2 – 3 weeks and the project at Maryville Academy should be finished within a week.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

No recognitions on file at this time.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Chad Hampton expressed best wishes and gratitude to Kathy Smith for the five years of service and overall improvements to the finance and accounting functions across the district. He noted how teachers and administrators are carrying the burden of the pandemic, but as the parent of a digital learner, he felt they were doing a great job.
- Julie Elder thanks MJHS for hosting the meeting and providing the video update – which highlights the sound and video improvements made recently in the gymnasium at MJHS. She went on to thank all teachers, parents, and Kathy Smith.
- Bethany Pope thanked Dr. Smit and all teachers for extraordinary efforts and results. She noted that many have reached out to her to share positive comments about the new school year. From the perspective of students, she feels they are all ready to return to school as soon as possible.
- Candy Morgan said that Kathy Smith would be missed and was greatly appreciated. She encouraged everyone to keep up the positive attitudes shared in recent weeks.
- Chairman Black thanks Kathy Smith for her service. He went on to say that, our kids are “lucky” to have such caring administrators and teachers, and he wished to express his most sincere appreciation to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Anglim
