

October 19, 2020
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020 at Moore Elementary School, 1061 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin, with the following members present:

Robert Blair, Chair
Alicia Barker
Allena Bell
Robin Newman
Kevin Townsel
Joining by phone: Tim Stillings

Others present were: Dr. David Snowden, Dr. Mary Decker, Dr. David Esslinger, Drew Bingham, Celby Glass, Dr. Cindy Cook, Amanda Whitley, Josh Bracamontes, Lisa Chatman, Amy Fisher, Dr. Pax Wiemers, Robbin Cross, Dr. Cheryl Robey, Summer Carlton, and other staff, principals, teachers, FSSDEA, community members and parents.

A recording of the October 19, 2020 Board Meeting may be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hf6N4WOtni4>

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Blair called the meeting to order at 6:30. Following COVID-19 safety precautions, it was announced that seats, Board and audience, are placed physically distanced, and masks may be removed as preferred for speaking or if properly distanced, otherwise masks should be worn if possible. Chair Blair recognized Mr. Stillings as joining the meeting by phone, having been recognized, and as extension of the State of Tennessee Executive Order No. 60 would have full voting privileges. A moment of silence was observed.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MES Principal Mrs. Janet Carroll welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. RECOGNITION/GOOD NEWS AWARDS

Good News Awards: Highlighted were (on file): MES 4th grader Alexandra Morris, FSSD Student Artist of the Month for September; and LES 4th grader Peyton Easley, FSSD Student Artist of the Month for October. Thanks to Sonic Drive-In for sponsoring the student artist program with a \$15 gift card for each of the artists being featured.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no one from the public that addressed the Board.

V. **REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS**

1. **Teaching and Learning Spotlight**, "Virtual Instruction"– Presented by Dr. Mary Decker, Associate Director (on file). Within the subject highlight this month, Dr. Decker compared where we were in providing 1:1 devices and connectivity in March 2020 to October 2020, as well as examples of teaching virtually using our teachers in their classrooms. At this time we have 139 teachers teaching virtually, either exclusively or having a mixture of virtual and in-person students. Dr. Decker confirmed that the district will be releasing the choice between virtual and in-person to the families later this week, as well as information on teacher evaluation this year.
2. **Construction Report** – Presented by Dr. David Esslinger, Associate Director (on file).
3. **2020 NSBA CUBE Virtual Conference** – Mrs. Bell provided an overview and highlights from her virtual attendance of this conference.

VI. **APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve the board agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

VII. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

The items on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

1. **Minutes of Board Meeting dated September 14, 2020**
2. **Budget Amendments**

VIII. **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

Consideration of:

1. **Policy Revision: Transfers Within the System (6.206) – 2nd Reading** - This revision request is to update the policy to current procedure and clarify language. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve 2nd Reading of the revisions for the policy **Transfers Within the System (6.206)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion. After discussion, the motion **passed 6-0**.

2. **Policy Revision: Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation (6.304) – 2nd Reading** - This policy revision updates language for clarity. It

is a recommended update from TSBA, of note to highlight the differences between this and the Title IX & Sexual Harassment policy. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve 2nd Reading of the revisions for the policy **Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation (6.304)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 3. Policy Revision: Student Concerns (6.305) – 2nd Reading** - As part of our policy subscription with TSBA, this policy was reviewed in conjunction with the creation of the Title IX policy for 1st Reading at this month's meeting. The revision is suggested by the TSBA Policy Department to avoid creating conflicts with other policies in this section, becoming more condensed and focused on responding to general student complaints rather than creating a formal grievance process. The title also changes with this revision request. A standard form for filing a concern with the school will be available in our district procedures manual, which is currently in process for district use. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve 2nd Reading of the revisions for the policy **Student Concerns (6.305)** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 4. Policy Revision: Suspension/Expulsion/Remand (6.316) – 2nd Reading** - With recent review of student discipline policies by TSBA, this policy is being presented adding additional language for suspension longer than five days, and longer than ten days, as well as reference updates to current law. Procedures in this policy will be available in our district procedures manual, which is currently in process for district use. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Robert Blair made a **motion** to approve 2nd Reading of the revisions for the policy **Suspension/Expulsion/Remand (6.316)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 5. Policy Revision: Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (6.317) – 2nd Reading** - This revision request is part of the updates with the group of student discipline policies which include 6.309, 6.316 and 6.319. This policy has been reviewed and streamlined by TSBA to ensure there are no conflicts with the update in law, along with updating references. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve 2nd Reading of the revisions for the policy **Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (6.317)** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

6. **Policy Revision: Alternative Education (6.319) – 2nd Reading** - TSBA recommends revision of our current policy based on the recent passage of the General Assembly’s Public Chapter 603 “which clarifies that students who commit zero tolerance offenses are not required to be placed in alternative schools or programs. Additionally, the State Board recently approved a regulation clarifying the differences between alternative schools and programs as well as the reasons that may justify removing a student from an alternative school or program.” This policy also changes its name from “Alternative School Programs” to “Alternative Education” to align with the updates. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve 2nd Reading of the revisions for the policy **Alternative Education (6.319)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

7. **Policy Revision: Method of Election of Officers (1.200) – 1st Reading** – This policy revision has been requested. TSBA has provided recommended language. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Method of Election of Officers (1.200)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

8. **Policy Revision: Food Service Management (3.500) – 1st Reading** – This revision request is based on recommendations from the Chef Ann trainings with the Child Nutrition Program this past school year as well as aligning policy with CNP goals. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Food Service Management (3.500)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

9. **Policy Revision: Background Investigations (5.1061) – 1st Reading** – This policy revision brings the policy up to current practice. The district does not reimburse the applicant for the background check. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Background Investigations (5.1061)** as presented and **waive the 2nd Reading**. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

10. **Policy Revision: Withdrawals (6.207) – 1st Reading** – This policy revision is requested as part of the review of Section 6 policies, adding to policy a requested timeline and designates responsibility before records leave the school. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Withdrawals (6.207)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

11. **Policy Revision: Interrogations and Searches (6.303) – 1st Reading** – This policy has been reviewed as part of the behavior and discipline group of policies currently up for revisions. Updates to the policy are consistent with state law. The section on searches has been moved to the procedures manual to separate from policy. Procedures for this policy have been reviewed by TSBA to ensure compliance with provisions of TCA 49-6-4201. The administration recommended approval.

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Interrogations and Searches (6.303)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

12. **Policy Revision: Alcohol and Drug Use (6.3071) – 1st Reading** – This policy has been reviewed as part of the behavior and discipline group of policies, and is being revised to bring it up to date as well as move the “Situations and Responses” portion of the policy to the procedures manual as part of our ongoing creation of that district resource. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Alcohol and Drug Use (6.3071)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

13. **Policy Revision: Dress Code (6.310) – 1st Reading** – The revisions on this policy are in the review of student policies group and brings it up to current language as well as updating references. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Dress Code (6.310)** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

IX. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

- **National School Bus Safety Week** – Observed October 19-23, a way for all of us to promote school bus safety and thank our drivers for all they do for our students to have them transported safely.
- **Williamson Chamber Event – State of the Schools and County** – This event will be held Tuesday, October 20 from 9:00-11:30; attendance can be in-person or virtually.
- **Be Nice Week** – To be held November 9-13, Student Ambassadors from each school have been chosen. As one of many districts and governmental agencies across Williamson County who strive every day to represent themselves with character and kindness, this week puts special emphasis on our message throughout the district with many activities, although a bit different this year!

- **Veteran’s Day Reverse Parade** – To be held Wednesday, November 11 from 11:00-12:30, the parade route will be within Harlinsdale Farm this year and will have our “Be Nice Student Ambassadors” from each school, the FIS Bulldog Council, and combined bands from FMS/PGMS. Parent permission will be required for student participation this year as a result of COVID-19. Adequate buses will be provided for transportation to the parade to allow physical distancing for the students. Students will march past the veterans before taking a place on the sidelines. The public is then invited to drive past the physically distanced veterans and student groups this year. We will plan to also have the Story Bus participate and we welcome Board members to ride if their schedules will permit.

- **Feeding Program update** – Recently, the USDA extended the decision to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, previously approved through the end of December 2020. As noted earlier, the USDA’s decision was based upon the financial hardships many have experienced during the COVID pandemic.

- **Monitoring of COVID-19 Data Spread** – We continue to review the COVID-19 Data in the County and locally. District and school breakdowns are provided to the state weekly; school updates are sent weekly to parents as we continue to be transparent with information within the guidelines and compliance of HIPAA, FERPA and any other related confidentiality requirements. The trend continues to increase; mitigation protocols and community support are needed more than ever to stay as safe as possible through this pandemic. We continue to have a shortage of subs. Our school administrators have been very creative when it comes to class coverage and our teachers and para-professionals have been great in their assistance and flexibility. It is of note that the district may exclude staff and students from school; however, it is decision of the Health Department that would be the entity that would quarantine based on contact tracing.

- **Update on Professional Learning** – After our last Board meeting, I spoke to both Mr. Blair and Mr. Townsel about ideas related to professional learning for the Board related to cultural sensitivity and diversity. Mr. Blair and Mr. Townsel suggested we might want to speak to Mr. Derek Young about some possibilities. Both had heard Mr. Young speak and had been impressed by his work. Dr. Decker and Mrs. Carlton have met virtually with Mr. Young to begin to discuss our needs. Dr. Snowden would like to include the Leadership Team in the same training if the Board approves.

- **Conferences and meetings update:** an update on conferences has previously been sent to you by email and also listed below.
 - TSBA Leadership Conference and Annual Convention – cancelled
 - TSBA Delegate Assembly – will be held virtually October 27th, delegates have been emailed their packets and link to the Assembly
 - TSBA Awards Ceremony – will be held virtually November 12th at 11:00, **registration needed** for the link
 - NABSE Conference – will be held virtually December 3-5 – **registration open**

- Equity Symposium and Advocacy Conference – January 23-26
- TSBA Legislative and Legal Institute – February 15-16, DoubleTree Nashville Downtown – **registration open**
- NSBA Conference – April 10-12, New Orleans – **registration opens October**, please let Carol know of your attendance.

X. UPDATES

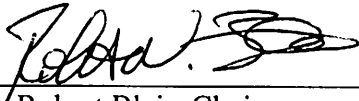
1. Teaching & Learning
 - Demographics dated September 25, 2020
2. Finance & Administration
 - Personnel Report September/October 2020
 - Investment Report dated August 31, 2020
 - Revenues and Expenditures Report dated October 13, 2020
 - Comparison of Sales Tax for October meeting

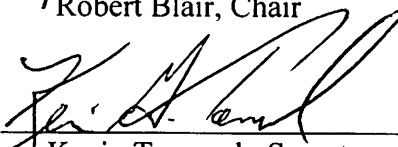
XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mrs. Bell announced the TSBA Delegate Assembly will be held virtually October 27th.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blair adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

	<u>11/9/2020</u>
Robert Blair, Chair	Date

ATTEST:		<u>11/9/2020</u>
	Kevin Townsel, Secretary	Date