



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes for February 8, 2021

The Maryville Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on February 8 at Coulter Grove Intermediate School. Board members present were Nick Black, Chad Hampton, Julie Elder, Bethany Pope, and Candy Morgan. Chairman Black called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by seventh grader Noah Jackson.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Principal Best shared the annual school theme - "the Magic Inside Me" - which has helped to bring normalcy to a rather abnormal school year. Supporting positive behavior and positive attitudes can be a challenge in any year, but during a pandemic, staff and students are digging deep to follow the Hawk standard of behavior – TO SOAR. Dr. Best went on to share a summer book read that helped shape the theme - "Big Magic" by Elizabeth Gilbert.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Black called for a vote to adopt the meeting agenda. Julie Elder moved to adopt the agenda. Candy Morgan seconded the motion. The meeting agenda received unanimous approval.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approve Minutes of January 11, 2021, meeting
2. Approve Board Policy Manual sections 2.601, 4.201, 6.300, 6.402, and 6.411 on second reading.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider removing TCAP scores as a factor in the final grades for students in grades 4-7 for the 2020-21 school year.
 - a. Motion to approve by Julie Elder. Second from Bethany Pope.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that recent COVID-related legislation gives school districts the option to drop the effect of state testing. This motion, specifically, is a proposal to drop the net effect of state testing in grades 4-7 at Coulter Grove and Montgomery Ridge schools only. Grades 8-12 will continue to count state testing outcomes at 15% of the students' final grade.
 - c. The motion to approve this agenda item passed unanimously.

2. Consider a rate of \$220/month (\$2,200 per year) for paying peers in the integrated Pre-K program.
 - a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Chad Hampton.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that all three elementary schools will have on-site Pre-K in the 2021-22 school year. After all interested at-risk and special needs students are served, any remaining seats will be allocated to paying peers. The rate for paying-peers is set at \$220/month or \$2,200 for the school year. This new option will not affect the Early Intervention Center (EIC) program, at John Sevier Elementary, that provides for free peer-buddy opportunities.
3. Consider renewal to Follett for Destiny Cloud licenses.
 - a. Funding Source: Instructional Supplies and Materials
 - b. Cost: \$11,235.41

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Winstead reported that over 4,500 respondents had participated in the recent Diversity survey process, including students (grades 8-12), parents, staff, alumni, and community stakeholders. In addition to gathering input about the overall cultural and diversity climate in the schools, participants were asked to weigh-in on the continued use of the nickname Rebel at MHS and MJHS.

Winstead expressed his appreciation for the work of the Diversity Taskforce and committed to continuing the work at the district level and in every school – working together to unpack the survey responses in ways that identify and address concerns, while promoting growth. “We are asking questions never asked before and these bold steps will be incorporated into our annual strategic planning process,” said the Director of Schools. “I expect our teams to be ready to discuss the findings from this survey process in a few months – hopefully as early as this summer.”

Dr. Winstead reviewed the outcome of a special legislative session that addressed the future of education across Tennessee. To bridge possible learning gaps, the Governor announced optional summer programs for students. Districts can request waivers for certain aspects of the plan, a welcomed option for districts (like Maryville) operating on a balanced calendar with shorter summers. Teachers selected to work during the summer will earn \$1,000 per week.

Pending the distribution of COVID-related funds, Dr. Winstead introduced the idea of a salary increase or bonus for all staff. As part of the legislative special session, funds are earmarked for certified staff who are primarily paid with BEP funds. Standard operating procedure in Maryville schools is to offer increases, when possible, to all certified and classified staff when raises are under consideration. Dr. Winstead hopes to present several options to the board at the March meeting or as soon as details of funds available are finalized.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

While the community-wide ONE BOOK BLITZ was not possible this year, K-7 schools planned a “mini blitz” at each school, which is currently underway.

- At Sam Houston, the staff selected **WISHTREE** that has a timeless message about diversity and inclusivity. The WISHTREE WISH HANGING night was a huge success. Community donations helped provide a hardcopy book for each student.
- At John Sevier, students are digging-in to **MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH**.
- Students at Foothills are returning to the farm to enjoy the incomparable **CHARLOTTE'S WEB**.

- MRIS 4th and 5th graders are reading **HOLES** and 6th/7th graders are enjoying **INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS**. We have heard reports like, “This is our best one yet,” which is wonderful to hear.
- At CGIS, they are enjoying **MANANALAND** by Pam Munoz Ryan.

As mentioned at the January School Board meeting, FHE students are following the **BE YOU** theme all year, and last week a group of students and teachers were highlighted in an interview on WVLT.

@MJHS

1. TVA and UT Battelle awarded a \$2,500 STEM grant to Dr. Hebert for the purchase of new equipment to test and measure bridge/truss strength.
2. 9th grade students participated in a virtual career fair – giving students an opportunity to interact with local businesses from all over Maryville. The event, organized by EPIC 9 Marketing, was a huge success.

@MHS

1. MHS students finished 2nd in regional competition at the 2021 Ethics Bowl competition in Knoxville this past weekend.
2. In district competition, the MHS wrestling team came out on top as district champs. Congrats to the whole team.
3. National merit scholar finalists for 2020 include: Vivan Chen, Kendra Day, Josh Driscoll, Charles Hasting, Ryan McCrory, and James Robertson.
4. HOSA students (future health professionals) from MHS had an exceptional showing at the 2020-21 HOSA Virtual Lower East Regional competition, where they took home 8 first place awards and 4 other awards. Categories of competition include CPR/First Aid, Emergency Medical Tech, Medical and Dental Terminology, Nutrition, and more.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Chad Hampton commented on how CGIS is always working to creatively engage students and staff, which accounts for why parents and students enjoy their time at the school so much. He went on to comment that using COVID funds for staff in the form of salary increases or bonus payments was certainly well earned this year.
- Julie Elder thanked Dr. Best for sharing the annual school theme and for the many creative ways her leadership team engages students, even during a pandemic. She thanked the Diversity Taskforce, and looks forward to a thorough review of the survey data – hoping to find many new opportunities for improvement.
- Bethany Pope thanked Dr. Winstead and the taskforce for their work and for the report, which she too is eager to explore. Mrs. Pope is anxious to consider teacher raises, and hopes everyone has a good day off on Monday, February 15th.
- Candy Morgan is also ready to consider spending state funds on salaries or bonus options.
- Chairman Black thanked everyone at Coulter Grove for hosting the meeting and always sharing a positive message. He supports each school principal in their work to unpack the Diversity survey results and use that data to inform change and facilitate growth.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Anglim.