BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for December 12, 2022

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on December 12 at Fort Craig. Board members present were Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Julie Elder, Candy Morgan, and Bart Stinnett. Chairman Black called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Dr. Mike Winstead, Director of Schools.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Judge Tammy Harrington swore in Bart Stinnett and Isaac Simerly for their first term on the Maryville City Schools Board of Education and Julie Elder for her second term on the Maryville City Schools Board of Education.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Chairman Nick Black opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.
- Julie Elder made the motion that Nick Black serve as Chairman. Bart Stinnett seconded the motion.
- No additional nominations were made.
- The motion carried unanimously.

- Chairman Nick Black opened the floor for nomination of Vice-Chair.
- Bart Stinnett made the motion for Julie Elder to serve as Vice-Chair. Isaac Simerly seconded the motion.
- No additional nominations were made.
- The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Ms. Deana Bishop, administrator at Maryville Virtual School, started her presentation by sharing why Maryville City Schools saw the need to offer virtual learning, post-Covid, and the benefits of allowing virtual students to remain in the district. Currently, 68 students are enrolled in MVS, and 6 staff members, along with 26 adjunct staff, provide asynchronous learning.

Ms. Bishop focused on the student centered academic support available at Maryville Virtual School through email accessibility to teachers and an academic support center that is open four hours each day. Additionally, 5 study skills support groups are in place to provide help to students.

Among the 68 enrolled students, 1 is taking a Dual Enrollment course at PSCC; students are enrolled in 10 Advanced Placement courses; and 1 student is taking a Work Based Learning course. The diversity of student interests and academics include a professional jazz pianist, formally truant students who are now passing all classes, a sophomore student about to earn his first credits, and 2 championship rowers. Four current MVS families have chosen to enroll a sibling.

Ms. Bishop concluded by thanking the school board, Dr. Winstead, and Ms. Vagnier for offering this alternative programming option for families.

ADOPT AGENDA

Nick Black asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Julie Elder moved to adopt, and a second came from Bart Stinnett. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No request for comments on the agenda were made.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Nick Black asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Isaac Simerly moved to adopt, and a second came from Candy Morgan. The motion carried with full agreement.

Approve Minutes of November 14, 2022, meeting (Attachment)

2. Approve Maryville High School Softball Team overnight to Athens, AL to attend softball games – Funding Source: Softball Account (Attachment A1)

3. Approve Maryville High School Cheer Team overnight to Orlando, FL to attend National High School Cheer Competition – Funding Source: Cheer Account (Attachment A2)

4. Approve Maryville Junior High School Orchestra overnight to King's Island Park in Mason, Ohio – Funding Source – Students (Attachment A3)

AGENDA

1. Consider appointing the following trustees of the Employee Sick Bank with the terms expiring as indicated.

· Julie Elder – December 31.2025

· Cheryl Stoltenberg – December 31,2025

· Bart Stinnett – December 31,2023

- Motion to approve by Julie Elder. Second from Candy Morgan.
- Dr. Winstead stated that one (1) sick bank houses both certified and non-certified, full-time staff. Currently 165 members are enrolled in the sick bank, and 432 days are available.
- Motion approved unanimously

2. Consider appointing a school board member to serve as the legislative representative.

- Motion to appoint Candy Morgan was made by Julie Elder. Second from Bart Stinnett.
- Motion approved unanimously

3. Consider revision to Board Policy 4.700 – Testing Programs (Attachment B1)

- Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.

- Dr. Winstead explained that this revision to Board Policy came as a recommendation from TSBA to ensure that the language matches the current practice and is captured in local policy.
- Motion approved unanimously

4. Consider MOU with the Maryville Police Department for school resource officers for the period of January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025 (Attachment B2)

- Motion to approve by Julie Elder. Second from Bart Stinnett.
- Dr. Winstead explained that the current MOU with the City of Maryville Police Department goes through the end of the 22-23 school year; however, the district wanted to capture a 5th SRO, Office Buchanan, who will be brought on board in January. The agreement between the city and school system is that the city still continue paying for the existing 4 SRO's, and annual Safe Schools Grant money will cover the 5th. The addition of Office Buchanan increases SRO coverage at 5 of our 8 campuses.
- Motion approved unanimously

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead provided an update on the 3rd grade retention law and what the process will look like for parents who wish to appeal. Students falling below or approaching are subject to the retention law, and those in the approaching category can now appeal directly to Commissioner Schwinn. Any student scoring above the 40th percentile on the final local benchmark test will automatically be granted the requested appeal. Dr. Winstead shared that the students scoring in the 40th-60th percentile range have been the district's concern, regarding potential retention, summer programming, and in-school tutoring. Although this is a good one-year fix, TOSS and TSBA still need to pursue changes to the law for students scoring in the approaching category, as Tennessee has set the bar higher than any other state in the country. Dr. Winstead emphasized that students scoring below the 40th percentile would have been targeted for RTI and summer school, and teachers are already having those conversations. In January, the elementary schools will provide targeted communication to parents.

Candy Morgan asked a question about additional test time for students. Dr. Winstead shared that the process has not been clearly defined; however, clarification will be given during upcoming trainings.

Mr. Simerly and Mr. Stinnett asked for additional information regarding the appeal process, and Dr. Winstead explained that the online process must be completed by parents with a student's state ID. Dr. Winstead added that schools are already developing a list of students who are exempt from the retention law.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

7th graders at Montgomery Ridge have been working on a project called Mission Unstoppable. They have been earning money for about a month to purchase toys for the Mission of Hope. They've earned a whopping $11,068.63! Students assembled the toys Thursday on December 8th (Workshop Day) during their ELA classes.

MHS teacher, Alex Oldham, was chosen Tennessee Outstanding American History Teacher by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Joel Smith and the Blount County Robotics Team has developed an outreach event where they come out and do an activity with kids and demo the robot. They held their first session at the Blount County Library last Thursday. The event was well received by the participants.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Isaac Simerly thanked the everyone for their support and shared that he is blessed to be a member of the board. He acknowledged his family for being in attendance. Mr. Simerly expressed his gratitude to MVS for providing families in the community with options and to Maryville Police Department for its support of Maryville City Schools through the partnership with SRO's.

Julie Elder shared her excitement of being sworn in for her 2nd term. She thanked Ms. Bishop for doing a phenomenal job of taking the helm of MVS and running with the idea. She remarked that she is thankful to Chief Crisp and the partnership that MPD has with MCS. Ms. Elder thanked the administrators and wished them a wonderful break. She also acknowledged the students who were in attendance from Mr. Mike Driver's government class.

Candy Morgan congratulated Julie Elder, Isaac Simerly, and Bart Stinnett. She complimented Ms. Bishop on her leadership at MVS. Ms. Morgan expressed her gratitude to Chief Crisp for his willingness to utilize resources to protect kids in school.

Bart Stinnett thanked everyone for their support, especially the current board. He also thanked his wife for attending. Mr. Stinnett thanked Ms. Bishop for what she is doing at MVS and for reaching a segment of the population that could be lost. Mr. Stinnett shared that he was formally an SRO and remarked that having SRO's in schools is a win, win situation for both students and the police officers who are there to protect and serve as role models.

Nick Black echoed the members' positive remarks about Ms. Bishop and MVS, stating the numbers speak for themselves. He is excited to see the virtual program grow and achieve success. Mr. Black shared that he is excited to see the SRO program expand and grow. He congratulated Mr. Simerly, Mr. Stinnett, and Ms. Elder on their swearing in. He remarked that he is blessed to have children in the system and expressed that he is thankful to serve another year as board chair.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene