

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes for January 9, 2023

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on January 9 at Foothills Elementary School. Members present were Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Julie Elder, Candy Morgan, and Bart Stinnett. Chairman Black called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Ms. Libby McConnell's kindergarten class.

UPDATE FROM FOOTHILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Libby McConnell's kindergarten students demonstrated Secret Stories, a new tool purchased with a grant from Maryville City Schools Foundation. Secret Stories provides a creative way for students to decode letters and words to strengthen literacy skills. Ms. McConnell shared the effectiveness of the tool and the enthusiasm it creates in the classroom.

Foothills Elementary School has a current enrollment of 642 students, with 8 sections across every grade level. Principal Karen Schito attributes the success of FHE to the belief that all kids can learn and relationships matter. The faculty and staff embrace the motto, *Personal Best, Nothing Less*. Ms. Schito emphasized the importance of autonomy in the classroom and embracing a strong teacher-leader model. She shared her appreciation for the TA's who provide a second set of hands in the classroom. The teachers and faculty want the students at FHE to look back on their time at FHE as special. In closing, Ms. Schito expressed her appreciation for the district leadership team.

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 motion was approved 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. Julie Elder moved to adopt, and a second came from Isaac Simerly. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of December 12, 2022 meeting
2. Approve Maryville High School Tennis Team overnight trip to Hendersonville, TN for a tennis competition. Funding Source: tennis funds

AGENDA

No items were on the agenda

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead expressed his appreciation for the students who demonstrated the Secret Stories tool and its ability to introduce literacy to students in a fun and engaging way. He reminded the board of the

upcoming City Council retreat and shared that since the joint meeting in December, several follow up discussions, including the public input session, have taken place. Dr. Winstead stated that he is looking forward to coming together to establish both a plan and timeline for the MHS expansion.

Dr. Winstead shared that the district has been approved for the Innovative School Models Grant. Governor Lee set aside \$500 million in last year's budget, and Maryville City Schools has been allocated a total of 2.5 million over a period of 4 years. The grant provides funding for increased focus on creating college and career pathways, beginning in middle school. Dr. Winstead stated that funding from the grant will allow MCS to build on initiatives the district has already started and will have a tremendous impact on students' experience and outcomes.

Dr. Ramona Best and Mr. Kevin Myers expressed the importance of creating a consistent experience across schools. They shared their excitement about assessing students' interests and aptitudes and continuing conversations in a targeted way to develop career awareness.

Ms. Melissa Stowers shared her vision for previewing clear pathways for students and offering CTE courses to students in the 8th grade. A career advising course and field trip experiences will assist students with selecting career pathways. Mrs. Stowers expressed her hope of easing the dichotomy between CTE and college.

Ms. Heather Hilton shared her goal of preparing students for what they want to do post-graduation. She emphasized that Maryville High School will continue its tradition of providing a strong academic foundation and preparing students for college; however, students will also be made aware of the many options that are available with industry certifications, WBL, and other Early Postsecondary Opportunities.

Ms. Maria Greene expressed the importance of creating a seamless alignment as students transition from middle school to high school. Funding from the Innovative School Models grant will be used to hire a District College and Career Coordinator who will create cohesiveness between grade levels while casting the district's vision and engaging stakeholders.

Dr. Winstead concluded by adding that industry standard equipment, purchased with grant funds, will provide students with real-world, hands-on experience and training.

Ms. Elder asked about the timeline for implementation, and Dr. Winstead shared that staff will be hired by the end of the school year. The career courses will begin in the fall of 2023, and rounds of equipment will be purchased during each year of the grant.

Mr. Stinnett inquired about the involvement of guidance counselors, and Dr. Winstead stated that school counselors will have a significant role in employing grant initiatives.

Ms. Morgan expressed her excitement about the grant and the importance of supporting students who may want to enter the workforce after graduating high school, rather than attending college. She expressed her desire to bring ROTC to the district.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

MHS senior Adi Madurri was selected as one of the Tennessee Department of Education's nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. He was one of only 20 nominees selected for the program. The

Presidential Scholars program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education and is one of the highest honors for high school student.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett shared his appreciation for the kindergarten students who performed and shared what they learned with Secret Stories. Mr. Stinnett commented that the grant is game-changing for students. He shared that Maryville has always done an outstanding job of putting kids in college and now an increased focus will be given to students who want to pursue a different path.

Candy Morgan thanked Ms. Schito and Mr. Hensley for hosting the meeting and the students who performed. She expressed her enthusiasm about the grant and the opportunities that it will create for students.

Julie Elder shared that she loves when a teacher has a great idea and it spreads to the rest of the school. She stated that the ISM grant is an exciting opportunity for MCS, and she is particularly appreciative for the parent involvement and academic awareness pieces.

Isaac Simerly thanked Ms. Schito and shared that it just takes one teacher to make a difference. He expressed his excitement about increasing CTE opportunities. Mr. Simerly also stated that he is interested in bringing ROTC to the district.

Nick Black thanked Ms. Schito and Mr. Hensley for hosting tonight's meeting. He commented on the many great things happening at MCS. He appreciated the mention of ROTC and is interested in pursuing that opportunity for students.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene