BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for April 17, 2023

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on April 17 at Sam Houston Elementary School. Board members present were Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Julie Elder, Candy Morgan, and Bart Stinnett. 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 SHE student Maggie Harris.

UPDATE FROM SAM HOUSTON

Following a performance of the SHE school song by the Smokie Singers, Principal Molly Rice shared a presentation about Smokie Pride. She explained that Sam Houston faculty and staff are passionate about getting to know students and their stories during their formative years. Ms. Rice emphasized the focus on families and the importance of providing opportunities for parents to be involved in their student's school and education. She highlighted the success of the Watch Dogs program and shared that, during this school year, 82 dads spent an entire day at SHE. Ms. Rice shared that SHE strives to implement new activities each year and shared an example of a collaborative effort with McNabb, counselors, and staff to provide an evening focused on reducing stress and establishing healthy routines. Ms. Rice acknowledged the PTO's role in working to make the school a better place by highlighting the new walking track and new refrigerator for teachers. An invitation was extended for board members and guests to attend Sam Houston's 70th anniversary celebration on September 8 that will include a museum and school tours. Ms. Rice concluded by introducing and thanking her assistant principal, Lucas Vagnier.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kerry Hall, Officer Austin Green, and Lauren Rudd spoke in favor of a cell tower being built at the property next to the MJHS track. All spoke on the necessity of cell phone coverage for communication purposes and the safety of students and staff. Officer Green spoke about the inability of MJHS to utilize the Navigate 360 Prepared App for emergency situations and drills.

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 March 20, 2023, meeting (Attachment)

2. Approve changes to Board Policy sections 1.106, 1.107, and 1.108 – 2nd reading - (Attachment A1)

3. Ratify Executive Committee approval of purchasing equipment for Maryville Jr High School new culinary classroom – Funding Source: Innovative School Models grant funds - $50,685.71 (Attachment A2)

4. Ratify Executive Committee approval of purchasing equipment for Maryville High School STEM classroom – Funding Source: Innovative School Models grant funds - $27,420.00 (Attachment A3)

5. Ratify Executive Committee approval of purchasing 12 Newline Boards for Coulter Grove Intermediate School – Funding Source: Coulter Grove Intermediate School Adventure Club funds - $29,025.00 (Attachment A4)

6. Ratify Executive Committee approval of purchasing 18 Newline Boards for Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School - Funding Source: Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Adventure Club funds - $39,942.00 (Attachment A5)

7. Ratify Executive Committee approval of purchasing 18 Newline Boards for Maryville High School – Funding Source: Maryville High School Internal School funds - $39,942.00 (Attachment A6)

8. Ratify Executive Committee approval of Coulter Grove Intermediate School Ambassadors/Leadership students trip to Philadelphia – Funding Source: Coulter Grove Intermediate School funds - $29,520.00 (Attachment A7)

9. Approve FileWave district site license renewal -Funding Source: Technology/Software - $40,824.00 (Attachment A8)

10. Approve the Certification of Adoption for math textbooks (Attachment A9)

11. Approve Maryville High School Boys' Basketball overnight trip to attend FCA Team Camp at Johnson University, Knoxville, Tennessee – Funding Source: School Account (Attachment A10)

AGENDA

1. Consider addendum to Transportation Contract with Rocky Top Tours, LLC for 2023-2024 school year. (Attachment B1)

- Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
- Dr. Winstead shared that Rocky Top has been the district's transportation provider for 10 years and continues to be a solid partner. This is the second bid cycle with the company, and there will be a 5% increase.
- Motion approved unanimously

2. Consider FY24 Budget Amendment #3 (Attachment B2)

- Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan.
- Dr. Winstead explained that third amendment was needed to capture revenue that adds over a million dollars and goes to the city council for a vote on May 2.
- Motion approved unanimously

3. Consider purchase of iReady Math for Grades K-7 (six-year license) Funding Source: Textbook-Electronic up to $780,000.00 (Attachment B3)

- Motion to approve by Julie Elder. Second from Bart Stinnett.
- Dr. Winstead shared that without a late shift in ADA funds, a 6-year purchase may not have been feasible; however, paying upfront saves the district $250,000.
- Ms. Vagnier shared that iReady started organically and small in our district; however, its effectiveness and popularity has led to all 5 schools requesting the iReady curriculum for math adoption. This new version provides a blended-model and a robust teacher took kit with paper resources.
- Dr. Winstead added that the iReady math adoption consists of both curriculum and benchmark assessments, while the iReady reading provides benchmarks.
- Motion approved unanimously

4. Consider purchase of textbooks for 8th grade math, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry from Savvas Learning Company, LLC – Funding Source: Textbooks $265,374.40 (Attachment B4)

- Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Julie Elder.
- Dr. Winstead explained that math teachers in grades 8-12 participated in the adoption process that started with a two-day professional development opportunity focusing on significant changes to math standards and vertical progression in grade levels. After each subject area explored math curriculum on state's approved list, the team selected a six-year contract with SAVVAS. The adoption purchase will include a printed textbook set for every class and a digital license for all students.
- Motion approved unanimously

5. Consider agreement with Vogue Towers to place a cell tower on the MJHS campus (Attachment B5)

- Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
- Julie Elder shared her appreciation for those who spoke in favor of the cell phone tower being placed on the MJHS campus. She emphasized that the cell phone tower is a need, rather than a want. She also shared that other options for placement of the tower have been explored and are limited; the MJHS location provides the best coverage for the 2,569 students and 352 faculty and staff located in the coverage area.
- Candy Morgan expressed her appreciation for those who shared their thoughts and opinions on the cell phone tower being built on the MJHS campus. Ms. Morgan expressed that, as a parent, the inconvenience resulting from lack of cell service is an issue; however, safety is the #1 priority, and the cell tower is a necessity, while also providing an opportunity for the community.
- Bart Stinnett thanked the guests who spoke about the cell phone tower. Mr. Stinnett acknowledged the concerns that some may have over scenery; however, between scenery or safety, he is always in favor of safety. With his law enforcement experience, he emphasized that without bandwidth, law enforcement can be at a loss during an emergency situation.
- Nick Black explained that the benefits of a cell tower on the MJHS campus are tremendous. He shared that the tower is needed and will financially benefit the district for years. He added that he is glad that there is a proposal that moves the tower off the road, permitting it to blend in.
- Isaac Simerly shared that he had to change his cell phone company when returning to Maryville in order to have sufficient coverage. He added that seeing the coverage map helped him understand that the tower is necessary.

- Candy Morgan inquired about the timeframe for building the tower, and the representative from Vogue Towers shared that a 7-8 month time frame provides time for local, state, and federal approval, along with a 30-day period for construction.
- Motion approved unanimously

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead shared that updated fiscal capacity numbers result in a slight reduction in state funding. He added that the TISA amount dropped by $50,000. Final touches are being put on the budget proposal, and the district is still waiting on one additional sales tax proposal. Dr. Winstead remarked that this is a busy time of year with scheduling and hiring taking place in all schools. He shared that three ready graduate facilitators have been hired, and two positions have been posted for principals at MRIS and MJHS. Dr. Winstead provided a brief update on facilities and explained that bidding for the replacement of the foam roof at SHE will be brought to the board for consideration in May. Additionally, the district will provide funding for a handicap accessible sidewalk for the SHE walking track.

RECOGNITIONS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

See attached

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett thanked Ms. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for hosting the board meeting. He thanked the guests who spoke and shared their opinions on such an important topic.

Candy Morgan thanked Ms. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for hosting the board meeting. She also thanked the Smokie Singers for their performance. Ms. Morgan shared her excitement for the 82 dads who participate in the Watch Dog Program and shared her involvement in the program during its early implementation. She commented that she is very happy about the cell tower and that it cannot happen soon enough for the safety of students and staff.

Isaac Simerly expressed his appreciation and enthusiasm for the Watch Dog program. He thanked Ms. Rice for sharing about Smokie Pride and commented on the singing of the school song. He shared his enthusiasm on the approximately $1,000,000 purchase of math curriculum. Mr. Simerly commented on the positive outcomes of the cell phone tower – security, coverage, and funding. He also shared his appreciation for the district's good stewardship of resources by utilizing the Fort Craig space.

Julie Elder shared her enthusiasm for Smokie Pride and thanked Ms. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for always going above and beyond. She also thanked both administrators for exploring ways to connect with families.

Nick Black thanked Ms. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for hosting tonight's meeting. He thanked those who shared their thoughts about the cell phone tower and remarked that he is blessed to be in Maryville City.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene

Recognition of Students and Staff

The following MHS students have been approved to receive the Volunteer State Seal of Biliteracy Award. These students will receive an embossed seal to be placed on their diploma, as well as a medal.

- Isabel Allen (Honors) - Spanish
- Simon Luhn (Honors) - French
- Macy Porter (Honors) - French
- Helen Rohan Ramirez (Honors) - Spanish
- Abbey Frost - French
- Brady Gardner - Spanish
- Liam Garris - Spanish
- Adithya Madduri - Spanish
- Addison McMahan - French
- Evelyn Paddock - Spanish
- Kara Porter - French
- Hannah Robertson - Spanish
- Reese Robinson - Spanish
- Lindsey Wyatt - Spanish

Pending AP Scores in May:

- William Grinder - Latin
- Avery Kumes – Latin

On Saturday April 1st, Kindergarten John Sevier Student Liam McCann took 1st place (amongst 85 total entries) in the 2023 Cub Scouts Cades Cove District Pinewood Derby. Yay for Liam!

On April 4, MCS math students competed against other local schools at the TMTA mathematics competition. We would like to congratulate all the students on their performance. The following students placed 3rd or above.

Minase Taniguchi - 2nd Place in Algebra 2

Kevin Ni and Deep Patel - Tied for 3rd Place in Precalculus

Lauren Turner and Ollie McQueen - Tied for 1st Place in Precalculus

Michael Miller - 2nd Place in Calculus

Patrick Qiu - 1st Place in Calculus

Lea Washburn - 1st Place in Geometry

Genevieve Stewart - 2nd Place in Geometry

Samuel Webb - 1st Place in Algebra I

Shaurya Patel - 3rd Place in Algebra 1

The MHS Scholars Banquet was held on Wednesday, May 12 at the Airport Hilton. Adi Madurri was the recipient of the $25,000 Lamar Alexander Scholarship; Ty Elder was the recipient of the $15,000 Lamar Alexander Scholarship. Lane Pinkerton, Parker Miller, and Abbey Frost each received Lamar Alexander Scholarships in the amount of $1,000. Congratulations to these seniors and to all of the junior and senior scholars honored at the banquet.

Athletic Highlights:

- Tennis District 4-AA
    - We are at the half way point of our season. Our girls have won 6 matches in a row and are 6-3 overall and 4-1 in District 4AA. Our boys have won 3 matches in a row and are now 5-4 overall and 3-2 in District 4AA.

· Track Section 1-AAA

- Maryville dominates the Blount County Championship for at least the 15th year in a row.
- Tezz Dozier has broken the open 200 meter school record with a mark of 21.34 seconds (Tezz also holds the 100m school record at 10.78)