

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for September 18, 2023

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 18 at Coulter Grove Intermediate 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 Anna Hargett.

UPDATE FROM COULTER GROVE

Dr. Ramona Best, CGIS Principal, introduced Coulter Grove's theme for the 23-24 school year, I'll be there for you, based on the popular TV show *Friends*. She shared tonight's presentation would focus on what CGIS is doing well, what CGIS looks forward to doing, and what career readiness look like in grades 4-7, specifically as it relates to content mastery, healthy living, leadership and service, and employer needs.

Assistant Principal Zac Hargett spoke about academic content mastery as a staircase approach, highlighting Coulter Grove's focus on classes and houses within core subjects, with increased rigor each year. He highlighted encore classes and the goal of providing students with ownership of elective choices as they progress through grade levels. Mr. Hargett called attention to Capturing Kids Hearts and the EXCEL model that emphasizes an effective way to communicate through relationship building and content delivery.

6th grade student and CGIS Liaison Harper Coppenger shared about programs offered by Coulter Grove that target healthy living and self-awareness including, physical education courses, the Lu Interactive Playground, and the Healthy Body Room, among others.

Dr. Best spoke on the importance of paying attention to student voice and student choice, sharing the significance of creating positive growth within the school and community. Dr. Best highlighted SERVE days at both Coulter Grove and Montgomery Ridge and expressed her appreciation to Rocky Top buses for their partnership.

Cole Myers, 7th grade Liaison, spoke on the role of communication as a key component of leadership. He provided examples of leadership opportunities within the school including the bookstore, peer buddies, Student Council, CBBC Bank, the Announcement Team, etc.

Meghan Cobble highlighted Capturing Kids Hearts and her delight to see its integration and fluidity throughout the entire school. She discussed the monthly year-long character awards and Coulter Grover's focus on honoring the dispositions of honesty, integrity, and responsibility.

Jason Hicks shared updates about the district's Ready Graduate Program, specifically as it relates to his role at both MRIS and CGIS. He shared his own path of finding a career after serving in the Army and explained his "why" and goal of wanting students to graduate Maryville High School with a clear future path. Mr. Hicks referenced the National Association of Colleges & Employers survey and the Ready Graduate Program's goal of supporting students in college and career exploration. He emphasized the

importance of students learning what they don't want to do, as well as what they want to do. He shared classroom instruction is centered around post-secondary options, interest inventories, industry visits and developing business partnerships. Mr. Hicks concluded by introducing the new Career Café for 7th grade students to hear from local business and industry leaders.

Dr. Best celebrated the current 7th grades at both MRIS and CGIS for ranking number #1 in Tennessee in all four subject areas. In addition, she shared both schools' designations as National Showcase Schools for Capturing Kids Hearts. Dr. Best concluded by extending her appreciation to the elementary schools, School Board, PTC, sponsors of the Hawk Olympics, and the Maryville City Schools Foundation.

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 comments were made by the public on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Candy Morgan made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Isaac Simerly seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of August 21, 2023, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve changes to Board Policy section 1.901 – Charter School Applications – Second reading (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Wind Ensemble overnight trip to Nashville, Tennessee to perform at the Tennessee School Boards Association Convention - Funding Source: District and School Funds (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Rangers overnight trip to Charleston, South Carolina – Funding Source: students (Attachment A3)
5. Approve ESSER Planning Addenda

AGENDA

1. Consider changes to Board Policy sections 2.805 – Purchasing, 2.806 – Bids and Quotations, 3.219 – Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones) and 4.700 – Testing Programs (Attachment B1)
 - a. Motion made by Julie Elder. Second from Candy Morgan.
 - b. Dr. Winstead provided a quick summary of each policy change.
 - i. 2.805 and 2.806: The Maryville City Council raised limits for bids from \$25,000 to \$50,000 to mirror action taken recently by the Maryville City Council.

Purchases over \$25,000 will continue to require school board approval and three quotes whenever possible.

- ii. 3.219: Laws regarding drones have changed since the initial board policy. Drones are currently being used by athletic teams, and a change in policy would allow visiting schools to use drones by requesting approval through the principal and athletic director.
- iii. 4.700: Policy 4.700 will allow students to test out of some approved high school courses. The state has provided an initial list, with the majority being foreign languages. Students in grades 9-12 can earn 4 total credits. Mr. Stinnett asked if students have to be recommended, and MHS Heather Hilton explained there is not a recommendation process; however, students must score an 85 or higher to earn credit. Mr. Simerly asked if students can choose to take the in-person course if they are not happy with their score, and Mrs. Hilton explained the student waives the option to take the course if he or she passes the test with an 85 or higher.
- iv. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead provided updated enrollment numbers. As of Friday, September 15, 5,642 students were enrolled in grades K-12, both virtual and in person. An additional 87 students were enrolled in PreK. A growth increase of ½ percent from last year leaves MCS at 97% capacity. Dr. Winstead shared a facilities update on Fort Craig, stating bids will begin coming in next week, and a site design should be ready around October 20.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

MHS Sports

Kiernan Stamey made her 1000th kill in Volleyball.

Lots more to come as Fall season ends the next couple of months

JSE

They finally broke ground on digging and installing our 2 giant shade structures for our Burrough Playground and Amphitheater in the back of the school! Hoping to be completely finished next week. We also began our after-school Run club and Drama Club this last week, with over 75 3rd graders participating in Run Club and over 90 K-3 students participating in Drama Club. This year's play will be "The Little Mermaid"

SHE

Thanks for the support of SHE Homecoming- we had over 200 people come by and enjoy the museum and tours of the school.

Our annual SHE Carnival is this Friday 5-8- Come join us! Games, inflatables, food trucks

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett thanked Dr. Best for her presentation and asked her to express his appreciation to Harper and Cole. Mr. Stinnett shared his enthusiasm for the service projects, character education initiatives, and the excellent Ready Graduate programming.

Julie Elder thanked Dr. Best and CGIS for hosting tonight's board meeting and conveyed her enthusiasm for bringing students together through a common theme. She also shared her appreciation for those who shared at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Elder thanked SHE Principal Molly Rice and Assistant Principal Lucas Vagnier for the success of Sam Houston's 70th anniversary celebration.

Isaac Simerly commented on the fantastic programs offered at CGIS and on the students who spoke at tonight's meeting. He acknowledged the value of students learning what they don't want to do post-graduation. Mr. Simerly shared his excitement about the progression of construction. He concluded by recognizing MCS as an academic powerhouse and praised the 7th grade students' test results. Mr. Simerly commented on the value of tough academic programs and excellent sports programs that build character.

Candy Morgan expressed her excitement for MRIS and CGIS being named Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase Schools. She commented on a job well-done for implementation of the Ready Graduate Program and thanked Mr. Hicks and the Ready Graduate team for taking such pride in this direction. She commented on TSBA's theme of success is every kid, every day and is thankful MCS embraces that philosophy.

Nick Black thanked Dr. Best for hosting tonight's board meeting. He shared his appreciation for the presentation and commented specifically on SERVE day and the experiences it provides students. He stated he is blessed to be a part of MCS. As a parent of a 7th grade student, he acknowledged that success did not begin in the 6th grade but was a progression through MCS.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14

Respectively submitted by: Maria Greene