

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for December 18, 2023

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 18 at Maryville High School's Culinary Arts building. Board members present were Nick Black, 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 Kyle Harris,

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bart Stinnett nominated Julie Elder as Board Chair for the next twelve-month period. Nick Black seconded the nomination. All members voted in favor of the appointment. Bart Stinnett nominated Nick Black to serve as Board Vice-chair for the same 12-month period. Julie Elder offered a second to the nomination, and the final vote was unanimous.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE ACADEMY

Kyle Harris, Maryville Academy Administrator, delivered a presentation in which he introduced his staff and provided updates about MA. Mr. Harris made note of the collaboration with Maryville Virtual School and the benefit of expanding the range of courses through digital offerings. Mr. Harris shared that at the end of the fall term, seven students have embraced a fully digital approach.

In terms of statistics, Mr. Harris shared the academy served 41 students during the fall term, with 70%-75% of enrollment resulting from drug and alcohol offenses. The presentation emphasized the unique qualities that define Maryville Academy's identity: building relationships with students, implementing a rewards and consequences system, conducting Life Space interviews, and addressing individual student needs. Gratitude was expressed to the McNabb counselor for aiding in addressing mental and emotional needs of students.

Identified growth areas include the provision of home services for students struggling with addiction. Looking forward, there is a focus on leveraging existing resources and the significance of a "3rd space" for support. Mr. Harris shared the staff's excitement about the move to Fort Craig and the proximity to Maryville Virtual School and Central Office.

In conclusion, Mr. Harris shared MA's philosophy centered on progress, rather than outcomes, emphasizing support for students in their unique areas. He shared the academy does not produce finished products, opting instead to stand alongside students as they navigate their individual paths.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

Nick Black made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Bart Stinnett seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of November 20, 2023, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve changes to Board Policy section 1.105 (School Board Legislative Involvement), 2.400 (Revenues), 2.601 (Fundraising Activities), 2.8051 (Credit Cards/Credit Lines), and 4.603 (Promotion and Retention) Second Reading (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville High School Cheer overnight trip to Orlando, Florida to participate in the National Cheerleading Championship – Funding Source: Cheer Account (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Maryville High School Bowling team overnight trip to Smyrna, Tennessee to participate in the TSSAA Bowling Tournament – Funding Source: students (Attachment A3)

AGENDA

1. Consider appointing Bart Stinnett as a trustee of the Employee Sick Bank with term expiring December 31, 2026.
 - a. Motion made by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
 - b. Dr. Winstead shared that under state law, five individuals serve three-year terms as trustees of the sick bank. Currently, there are 165 members of both certified and classified staff, with 12 new members in the 23-24 school year. Currently, 462 days are available. Dr. Winstead noted that Mr. Stinnett was elected in December 2022 to serve the remainder of Chad Hampton's term, and this new nomination will be for the full three-years.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously
2. Consider appointing Candy Morgan to serve as the Board's legislative liaison.
 - a. Motion made by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
 - b. Dr. Winstead stated the Board annually elects one member to serve as the legislative liaison to the Tennessee School Boards Association.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider changes to Board Policy section 5.301 (Emergency and Legal Leave) and 6.3041 (Title IX and Sexual Harassment). First reading (Attachment B1)
 - a. Motion made by Bart Stinnett. Second from Nick Black.
 - b. Dr. Winstead shared that policy changes are usually prompted by the TSBA model; however, this policy change came from within addresses how Maryville City Schools pays for jury duty. Rather than deducting \$10 per day from the employee's salary, full compensation will be given. Policy 6.3041 requires a Title IX coordinator to be named in the policy, and this change will reflect Melissa Stowers as the MCS Title IX Coordinator.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead conveyed his gratitude to Nick Black for his four-year tenure as Board Chair, expressing appreciation for his hard work and dedication. He extended thanks to the principals for fostering a positive culture and environment within their schools. Dr. Winstead shared that preparations for the upcoming year are already in progress.

Dr. Winstead commented on current projects and anticipates the January City Council meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss options and pricing for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the high school renovation. Progress is being made in the renovation of Fort Craig, with the demolition underway and expected completion by June. The roof project at Sam Houston is also nearing completion.

The state will release letter grades on Thursday, December 21, and Dr. Winstead stated the release of will play a crucial role in discussions related to vouchers. Dr. Winstead reiterated our district's commitment to educating and caring for students.

Dr. Winstead closed by wishing everyone and their families a wonderful break and holiday season.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

(See attached document)

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He commented that whether it's academics, sports, or fine arts, "Maryville shows up." He commented on school vouchers, stating that if private schools accept state money, they should be evaluated before the money goes to them. Mr. Stinnett added that being a private school does not necessarily make them better.

Nick Black wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a great break. He shared his own children have had a great semester and thanked the educators who have touched their lives. Mr. Black commented on the letter grades, stating that the achievement levels make him proud of Maryville City Schools. He shared that although he doesn't necessarily like the formula, the achievement of the district is phenomenal. He thanked Kyle Harris for his presentation and the work he does with students at Maryville Academy. He highlighted Mr. Harris' comment about "each student is a school on their own," and acknowledged MA offers its teachers challenges that the other schools do not. He stated he is looking forward to the next semester and thanked the board for his time of service as chair.

Candy Morgan thanked Kyle Harris for his report, commenting that it takes a village. She stated that Maryville Academy is often a revolving door, and she appreciates his hard work. She thanked the principals for leading a team of teachers who give energy, knowledge, and time in the classroom. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and enjoyable break with family.

Julie Elder thanked Kyle Harris for his presentation and remarked on his role as a "facilitator of healing." She thanked all of the educators in the room for all they do, regardless of a letter grade assigned by the state.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Maria Greene