BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for February 19, 2024

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 19 at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Candy Morgan, and Bart Stinnett. Chair Julie Elder 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 7th grade student Zachary Marion.

UPDATE FROM MONTGOMERY RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

MRIS Principal David Claxton greeted guests and expressed his gratitude today's Spotlight event, emphasizing the potential of "me is we." Mr. Claxton spoke of the undiscovered blessings of hiring new staff and shared the names of teachers and TA's new to MRIS, including Assistant Principal Julie Keyl. In his presentation, Mr. Claxton shared the core values of MRIS through the acronym RIDGE: Respect, Integrity, Dedication, Growth, and Excellence. He showcased a variety of events including X Games, Camp Montvale for 4th graders, Rangers, pep rallies, and a memorable field trip to the Great Smoky Mountains. Mr. Claxton also highlighted notable achievements, including fine arts performances and the opportunity for band students to showcase their talents at the TSBA Convention in Nashville. Additionally, he mentioned the 4th and 5th grade students' participation in One Book Blitz.

Mr. Claxton turned the presentation over to Leadworthy students Anna Garland, Andrew Garland, Reese Milsaps, and Zachary Marion. Anna Garland discussed Leadworthy activities at the Ridge designed to foster a positive environment, such as greeting students at the doors in the mornings and fostering connections through Peer Connect. Drew Garland highlighted several service projects at MRIS, including Socktober, Mission Unstoppable, and the March Madness fundraising event for MCSF's Children's Fund. Zachary Marion emphasized the importance of learning soft skills through Leadworthy, including conducting interviews with community partners to provide students with important skills and preparation for future challenges. Reese Phillips introduced Maryville Express on the Ridge, a coffee service run by CDC students. She shared an inspiring video featuring the Ridge baristas.

Isaac Simerly thanked Anna, Andrew, Reese, and Zachary for the excellent presentation and for embracing a leadership role at MRIS. He also expressed his excitement about the coffee cart.

Candy Morgan expressed her gratitude to the Leadworthy students for their outstanding presentation. She acknowledged Anna for encouraging her peers during their presentation. Mrs. Morgan also spoke of the bright futures awaiting the students and thanked them for their efforts in making others feel included.

Nick Black thanked the Leadworthy students for sharing their presentation, noting that public speaking isn't easy. He shared that he sees the students each morning giving fist bumps as students enter the building and raising the flag.

Bart Stinnett thanked Mr. Claxon and the Leadworthy students for hosting tonight's board meeting, He referenced R.A. Dickey's comment about how everyone has a job in a family, and this is true for students, as they are part of the process. He thanked the students for being a help and inspiration to their peers.

Julie Elder thanked Mr. Claxton for hosting tonight's meeting, stating that she loves the RIDGE acronym. She thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. Murphy for their vision for the Leadworthy program and acknowledged the students for their presentation.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

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

1. Approve Minutes of January 22, 2024, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve changes to Board Policy Section 2.200 (Annual Operating Budget) -Second reading (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville High School SCOPE delegates overnight trip to attend 2024 SCOPE conference in Nashville, Tennessee – Funding Source: Maryville City Schools (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Maryville High School Hiking Club overnight trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Gatlinburg, Tennessee – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A3)
5. Approve quote from PCS for Aruba ClearPass - Funding Source: Regular Ed/Technology Software - $26,263.86 (Attachment A4)

AGENDA

1. Consider a change order on the Fort Craig Renovation Project to add parking lot construction to the scope of work – Funding Source: General Purpose - Capital Outlay/Site Development - $304,809.00 (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion made by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead provided additional details about the parking lot construction. The Planning Commission approved the project that will provide a total of 116 parking spaces at Fort Craig. Construction will provide 31 employee spots behind the building, take out the bus lane on Charles Street to add 10 diagonal spots, restripe 21 spots in front, expand the parking spaces adjacent to the maintenance building to 54, and provide the necessary number of ADA spots. Leon Williams' timeline coincides with the interior renovation completion at the end of summer.
    c. Clarifying questions included the location of the entry at the back of the building and the number of parking spaces utilized on a daily basis.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Consider ratifying emergency purchase of roof replacement over the Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Gym and Theater – Funding Source: General Purpose- Capital Outlay/Building Improvements - $212,740.00 (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion made by Nick Black. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that the recent ice storm exacerbated the leaking problem on the only section of the MRIS roof not replaced during the hailstorm in 2008-2009. The contract will be with Escola, the same company that completed the roof at Sam Houston. The project will be completed in approximately 6 weeks.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider purchase of a used Boom Lift - Funding Source: General Purpose – Maintenance of Plant/Maintenance Equipment - $43,000.00 (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion made by Isaac Simerly. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that after an analysis provided by Maintenance Supervisor Joe Robinette, the purchase of a boom lift, rather than renting one, will be beneficial in the long term. The boom lift is a 2017 model and includes a trailer for transporting.
    c. Mr. Simerly asked about the need for extra insurance, and Dr. Winstead shared that an additional insurance policy is not needed.
    d. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Consider changing the grade span served at Maryville Virtual School to 4-12 for the 2024-2025 school year.
    a. Motion made by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that before launching Maryville Virtual School, input was sought from the Leadership Team and teachers to determine which grade levels to serve. The district also consulted with other virtual schools in the area to inform this decision. Currently, out of 94 students, 64 are enrolled in grades 9-12, and there are no students in grades 2-4. By formally designating MVS as a 4-12 school, it will not be subject to Title 1 requirements.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead expressed his excitement for today's Spotlight event, highlighting its significance as an opportunity to pause and celebrate teachers and staff. He emphasized that Spotlight is an event he looks forward to each year.

Dr. Winstead announced that Maryville City Schools will be closed on Election Day, March 5, noting that John Sevier Elementary, Maryville Junior High, and Maryville High School are serving as voting precincts.

Providing updates on construction projects, he mentioned that renovations at Fort Craig are progressing well. Additionally, ground has been broken for the new cell tower at Maryville Junior High School.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville Junior High and Maryville High School: The following students auditioned and were selected for next week's ETSBOA Senior Clinic Band at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg!

Adam Faller (he made All State on Clarinet)
Brody Hayes Clarinet
Anmie Zhang Clarinet
Lorelai Hudgens Clarinet
Kaeden Miller Bassoon
Andrew Smith Tenor saxophone
Colton Lohr Trumpet
Carson Lindsey Percussion

There were 31 students total who made All East from the entire MHS/MJHS 9-12 program and 8 of which earned a spot in the TMEA All State Band.

John Sevier: We would like to recognize our JSE Kindergarten Teacher Miss Sarah Coffey, who won B97.5's (radio station) teacher of the month award for February. Representatives from the station came to JSE on Feb 1st to surprise and deliver gifts for Miss Coffey and her students.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett shared he was very impressed with Spotlight and found the event to be exciting and motivational. He stated that the administrators, teachers, and staff are invaluable as the "motor on the ship."

Nick Black shared that this year's Spotlight was the best he has attended. He expressed his appreciation for Cy Young winner R.A. Dickey's tremendous message that sparked excitement and a sense of community. As the spring term is in full swing, Mr. Black stated that he is blessed to be in Maryville.

Candy Morgan thanked Mr. Claxton for sharing the potential of "me is we." She emphasized that we should never underestimate the impact we have on others. She concluded by stating that it's always great to be at the Ridge and thanked the administrators for all they do.

Isaac Simerly shared that it was fun to celebrate with everyone at Spotlight and remarked on the great event that was full of energy. He referenced the listening engagements he has recently attended regarding school vouchers and recognized Mr. Dustin Parks and the others who shared their passion for representing the school system and community. He stated that he hopes Nashville is listening.

Julie Elder shared that board members traveled to Nashville during the previous week, and it was difficult to hear state representatives who are not supportive of public education. She thanked parents for attending tonight's meeting and the students for presenting. Mrs. Elder stated it was wonderful to see our MCS employees at the Clayton Center today as they expressed their energy and excitement for children in our school district, as the students are where it "begins and ends." She expressed that she is grateful to be in Maryville.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene