BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for March 18, 2024

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 18 at Sam Houston Elementary 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 3rd grade student Lydia Manis.

UPDATE FROM SAM HOUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Molly Rice welcomed guests to Sam Houston and expressed gratitude to the school board for advocating on behalf of students. She introduced Assistant Principal Lucas Vagnier, acknowledging his passion and dedication to the students at Sam Houston. For her presentation, Mrs. Rice focused on behind-the-scenes efforts centered on student care, highlighting that student care begins with teachers. She praised the school's two full-time counselors and noted the expansion of support staff, including an additional behavior interventionist shared between the two elementary schools. She noted that each elementary school also has a full-time and part-time behavior teaching assistant. She expressed gratitude for the McNabb therapist, who provides weekly therapy to approximately 20 students and their families. Mrs. Rice emphasized the belief that resilience is a skill that can be learned and highlighted several programs at Sam Houston, such as Smokie Ready, Smokie Reset, and Smokie Pals that are designed to support students' emotional and behavioral needs. Twice-yearly data analysis helps identify students who may require additional care and support.

In closing, Mrs. Rice thanked the school board, Dr. Winstead, and Mrs. Vagnier for providing resources. She emphasized that one of the key distinctions of MCS is the commitment to making every student feel valued and irreplaceable.

Candy Morgan thanked Mrs. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for all the work they do in support of teachers.

Isaac Simerly echoed Mrs. Morgan's comments and shared his appreciation of the phrase, resilience can be learned.

Nick Black thanked Mrs. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for hosting tonight's meeting and shared his appreciation for the focus on student care that is district-wide, specifically pointing out the risk assessment to support students who previously may have flown under the radar.

Bart Stinnett stated he is impressed with a program focused on building a foundation and developing skills that will carry students through high school to college and a career.

Julie Elder thanked Mrs. Rice for providing insights and details on student care. She highlighted the 1:250 ratio that demonstrates MCS invests in staff working closest with our students.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

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

1. Approve Minutes of February 19, 2024, meeting (Attachment)
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Wresting Team overnight trip to Franklin, Tennessee – Funding Source: Maryville High School Athletics (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville High School BC Robotics Club overnight trip to Cleveland, Ohio to attend the Buckeye Regional Robotics Competition – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee approval of the contract with Cope Architecture for the design services for renovation of the practice field at Maryville Junior High School – Funding Source: General Purposes Reg Capital Outlay-Architectural Fees (Attachment A3)
5. Ratify Executive Committee approval of the contract with Cope Architecture for design services for renovation of the current Maryville Academy building – Funding Source: General Purpose Reg Capital Outlay-Architectural Fees (Attachment A4)
6. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Basketball Team overnight trip to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for TSSAA State Tournament – Funding Source: Maryville High School Athletics (Attachment A5)
7. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Cheer Team to attend TSSAA Basketball State Tournament –Funding Source: Maryville High School Cheer (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Maryville High School Tennis Team overnight trip to Hendersonville, Tennessee to attend tournaments – Funding Source: Maryville High School Tennis (Attachment A7)

AGENDA

1. Consider quote from FaciliServ for service and repair of Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School bleachers – Funding Source: GP-Maintenance of Plant-Building & Repair (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion made by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead stated the total amount of the service and repair is $32,501 plus any additional charges for lifts and floor protection. The bleachers at MRIS and MJHS need service, and the biggest expense at MRIS is replacing 32 drive rollers. He thanked Brad White, Nick Kessler, David Combs, and David Claxon for completing the research and legwork on this project that he hopes will extend the life of the bleachers for several more years.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Consider quote of two hundred iPads from Apple, Inc – Funding Source: Instructional Equipment - $55,800.00 (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion made by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained this purchase is part of the ongoing device replacement for the oldest student devices in elementary schools. Due to age, these devices are no longer supported by Apple. Mr. Stinnett inquired about a trade in option, and Dr.

Winstead stated that replaced devices are sometimes used in the upper grades as a second device if they still have functionality.

c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead commented on the progress of the Fort Craig renovation. The roof project, approved approximately nine months ago, is in progress and estimated to be complete in mid-summer, about the same time as the interior.

Dr. Winstead received the Average Daily Attendance report from the state, indicating that nearly 32% of students in Blount County are enrolled in Maryville City Schools. All three school districts have maintained steady attendance rates, and there has been a minimal shift in property tax, with an increase of only 0.06% for Maryville City Schools. Estimates for TISA and sales tax revenues are beginning to come in and will be factored into the budget planning process.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

MJHS

Congratulations to Sadie Johnson for placing 3rd in the Chilhowee Youth Poetry Contest and Sammie Norris for placing 2nd. The contest was open to participants from all three school systems. Winners will be honored at a ceremony on April 2.

MHS

MHS BAND earned a **perfect score** at the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association's Middle Area Concert Performance Assessment. Our exceptional MHS BAND earned the American School Band Directors Association's Award of Distinction in Grade VI music (the highest level and classification for advanced wind band repertoire) by receiving all SUPERIOR ratings, in ALL categories, from ALL judges both on stage and in sight-reading.

The Boy's Basketball team had a fantastic season representing MHS in the first round of the state playoffs. Congratulations to the team, coaches, and families. GO Rebels!!

Andrew Zappa, a senior, has had one of his photographs accepted into National Geographic. We are so proud of him!

The MHS National Art Honor Society hosted their annual induction ceremony before Spring Break. We inducted 33 members including 15 seniors who earned their cords for graduation! They held an incredible Art show to demonstrate the talent of these individuals in our library.

The MHS National Honor Society welcomed 97 new members into the organization. We look forward to their leadership and service in our community!

Congratulations to the Tennessee DECA State Career Development Conference in Chattanooga on Feb 29-March 2. The following students placed in the top 6 in their event: Holland Harvard, Abby Hall, and Emma Simms. 100% of the students represented Maryville well in every way!

Congratulations to Drew Carver for being elected by his peers to serve as Vice President of SCORE.

*Athletic highlights attached

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett commented on the impressive academic and athletic accomplishments of MCS students. He reiterated his appreciation for the student care programs implemented at SHE and the other elementary schools.

Nick Black thanked guests for attending tonight's meeting and stated he hoped everyone had a great spring break. He encouraged administrators, teachers, and students to finish the last nine weeks on a strong note, stating that it's good to have everyone back in school. Mr. Black thanked Daily Times reporter Amy Beth Miller for her article detailing the budget concerns of the Clayton Center for the Arts.

Isaac Simerly shared his family spent time in Cades Cove over break and emphasized the connection between community and schools through his memory of a former MCS custodian who was born and raised in the Cove. Mr. Simerly stated he looks forward to the upcoming Budget Retreat and said he is happy to hear about the progress of Fort Craig. He concluded by thanking Mrs. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for hosting the meeting, commenting on the effective programs that are focused on student care.

Candy Morgan thanked Mrs. Rice for her presentation. Mrs. Morgan said that as a parent she recognizes the value of programs focused on student care and praised MCS for strengthening efforts in this area.

Julie Elder spoke specifically to the elementary principals, stating they do an impeccable job of acclimating kids to school and laying the groundwork to prepare them for the next level of feeling valued and recognizing their role as a valuable part of the school system. She thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, including guests from Leadership Blount.

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