BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for January 22, 2024

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 15 at Maryville Junior High 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 8th grade student Kai Stowers.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal David Combs welcomed the Board and guests to MJHS. He emphasized the school's focus: "We Build Great People to Do Extraordinary Things." He elaborated on the quote, highlighting the commitment to preparing students for future success, beyond their time Maryville Junior High School.

Mr. Combs outlined the faculty and staff's approach to student development, highlighting the Student Experience Committee, Student Celebrations Committee, Student Support Team, and a focus on critical thinking skills.

Acknowledging his administrative team, teachers, and staff, Mr. Combs discussed their efforts to foster a student-centered culture. He mentioned initiatives including a book study and a new Teacher Challenge Catalog for professional development to promote mastery, autonomy, and purpose. He stressed the importance of incorporating fun into these efforts and highlighted upcoming school-wide activities including a Ninja game and a Rochambeau contest.

Mr. Combs thanked Dr. Winstead and Mrs. Vagnier for their support of facility improvements including painting the gym floor, front door wraps, and Power M's painted on the interior and exterior of the school.

Mike Wise, Ready Graduate Advisor, spoke about the three components of the Ready Graduate Program: educate, explore, and experience. He shared about the program's guest speakers, Lunch and Learns, and field trips to places like the UT Food Science Department, Aveda Hair Institute, and Cirrus Aviation. Mr. Wise explained that these experiences provide students with real-world exposure and prepare them for future careers. Wise emphasized the program's commitment to preparing all students for success.

REPORT ON SCOPE

Mr. Mike Driver introduced the students who attended SCOPE (Student Congress on Policies in Education) in March. Drew Carver, Jamie Irvine, Arowyn Casenhiser, Cayman Rudd, and Maleah Coulter learned how school boards operate across Tennessee and debated topics including required internships, AI, and 4-day school weeks. He congratulated Drew Carver for being selected as the 2024-2025 2nd Vice President. Students Cayman Rudd and Maleah Coulter spoke about their experience, and Mr. Driver presented them with certificates. Mr. Driver concluded by thanking the School Board for the funding to provide this opportunity for students.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Isaac Simerly commented on the amazing things happening at MJHS, stating that junior high is hard. He thanked Mr. Wise for his presentation and the hard work he is doing in the Ready Graduate Program. He shared his appreciation for Coach Driver and thanked him for his support of students.

Candy Morgan thanked Mr Combs and his administration, sharing that she can see the transformation taking place. She emphasized the importance of learning through fun. She thanked Mr. Driver for his commitment to kids and shared he will be missed after retirement.

Nick Black thanked Mr. Combs for hosting tonight's meeting and for his presentation. He stated he enjoys seeing how the team, "gets it done." He thanked Mr. Wise and Mr. Lambert (MHS Ready Graduate Coordinator) for preparing kids to go into the world. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Driver and wished him well upon his retirement. Mr. Black said he loves hearing about the students' experiences at SCOPE each year.

Bart Stinnett thanked MJHS for hosting and presenting. Mr. Stinnett shared his appreciation for Mr. Wise's commitment to involving the community in the Ready Graduate initiatives, stating he is impressed with the program. He concluded by commenting on the facility improvements made at the junior high.

Julie Elder thanked Mr. Combs and his staff for injecting some fun in the junior high experience. She thanked Cayman Rudd and Maleah Coulter for sharing their experience at SCOPE and asked them to congratulate Drew Carver, Jamie Irvine, and Arowyn Casenhiser. She commended their public speaking skills that are reflective of their success at SCOPE. Mrs. Elder concluded by expressing her appreciation to Mr. Driver.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made by the public on agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Approve Minutes of March 18, 2024, meeting (Attachment)
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval of the contract with Cope Architecture for design services for dressing rooms and concessions at the track facility (Attachment A1)
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval of Southern Glass Company for window replacement at Fort Craig – Funding Source: Regular Outlay/Building Improvements - $45,700.00 (Attachment A2)

AGENDA

1. Consider purchase of Precalculus and Statistics textbooks from Tennessee Book Company- Funding Source: Regular Ed/Textbooks - $53,489.60 (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion made by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.

   b. Dr. Winstead explained that during the 2022-23 math adoption, teachers in grades K-10 adopted new curriculum; however, teachers of upper-level math wanted additional time to search for products to align with the new state standards, especially with the state moving to an 8-year adoption cycle.
   c. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Consider addendum to the Transportation Contract with Rocky Top Tours, LLC for the 2024-2025 school year (Attachment B2)
   a. Motion made by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
   b. Dr. Winstead explained this is the last year MCS can renew with Rocky Top before bidding in the spring of 2025. This addendum to the Transportation Contract includes a 10% increase. Dr. Winstead shared his hope that Rocky Top will continue its operation of school transportation in future years.
   c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider quote from Dell Technologies for administrative office computers – Funding Source: Regular Ed/Other equipment - $42,938.28 (Attachment B3)
   a. Motion made by Isaac Simerly. Second from Bart Stinnett.
   b. Dr. Winstead stated this quote from Dell Technologies includes both workstations and laptops with docking stations. He shared that no device replacements are on the docket for next year, and the district will move towards upgrading the network.
   c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead spoke about the upcoming vote on vouchers, stating that it appears unlikely that voucher legislation will pass before legislators adjourn.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville High School

Maryville High School hosted its annual Maryville Scholars Banquet, and 15 seniors and 15 juniors were recognized for their academic excellence. Senior Coston Autry received the $25,000 Lamar Alexander Scholarship, and Mohib Ahmed was awarded the $25,000 Lamar Alexander Scholarship.

John Sevier Elementary

Despite the 50-degree weather, John Sevier had a successful turnout for the annual outdoor Lunch with a Loved One, and an estimated 900 or more parents and family members attended the event.

Montgomery Ridge Intermediate

The Leadworthy Leadership Team (students and teachers) coordinated and completed a seven-day "Coin Wars" competition between all homeroom classes with proceeds benefiting the Children's Fund. The results were amazing, with over $7,800 raised.

Congratulations to the 4th and 5th grade Art Club for placing first in the Collaborative Elementary School Division at the Dogwood Arts Chalk Walk – a first for MRIS!

Coulter Grove Intermediate

CGIS is the Spring 2024 Vocabulary Bowl State Champion (they also won in the fall). The teacher leaders for the most words mastered are Tiffany Horan and Janeen Saunders.

Chilhowee Club Annual Poetry Contest
Each year, the Chilhowee Club sponsors a Youth Poetry Contest that is open to all K-12 students in Alcoa, Blount, and Maryville City Schools. This year, MCS had 9 winners out of 24, and 5th grade CGIS student Willow Harris won first place in the Smoky Mountain District, and her poem will be considered for an award at the state level.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett stated that he is always impressed with MCS staff and students. He stated the MJHS building looks exceptional.

Nick Black wished the students good luck with testing, encouraging them to "stay strong."

Candy Morgan also wished the students and teachers luck during the spring testing.

Isaac Simerly acknowledged the testing window and emphasized an early bedtime for his own children.

Julie Elder thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting. She also thanked the seniors from Coach Driver's Government class for attending and asked them to share their postsecondary plans.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:18
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene