**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**Minutes for September 9, 2024**

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9 at John Sevier Elementary School. Board members present were Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, and Candy Morgan. Vice-Chair Nick 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 3rd grade students Aleena Manuel-Hernandez and Dayanara Sierra Bautista.

## UPDATE FROM JOHN SEVIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Josh Oliver and Assistant Principal Hope Blizzard welcomed the School Board and guests to John Sevier Elementary School. Mr. Oliver highlighted the school's motto, "Expect the Best," along with this year's theme, "The Best is Yet to Come." During his two years as principal at JSE, Mr. Oliver shared that he and his assistant principal have emphasized establishing clear procedures and expectations, which are being embraced by teachers and staff. For the 24-25 school year, the focus at John Sevier is on fostering the growth of the whole child through a shared leadership model, cultivating a family-like environment, promoting school pride and spirit, and enhancing extracurricular activities.

Administratively, Mr. Oliver and Assistant Principal Mrs. Blizzard are dedicated to building and sustaining a positive school culture while diving into data to refine their practices and strategies. Teachers are currently engaged in a book study of Larry Thompson's *Roadmap to Responsibility*, and teachers from Foothills Elementary and Sam Houston Elementary will attend a professional development opportunity with the author.

Mr. Oliver also provided an update on facilities improvements to John Sevier, including the new inclusive learning play area, upgraded stage lighting and a new sound system in the auditorium, privacy tinting at the front entrance, and new shade structures over the playground and outdoor classroom.

## ADOPT AGENDA

Nick Black asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Candy Morgan moved to adopt, and a second came from Isaac Simerly. 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

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

1. Approve Minutes of August 19, 2024, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve change to Board Policy 4.602 (GPA Calculation and Recognition – second reading (Attachment A1)
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval of Maryville High School Theatre trip to Dolly Parton's Stampede – Funding Source: students (Attachment A2)

4. Approve Maryville Jr High School Tennis Team overnight trip to attend TMSAA/USTA Tennis State Tournament in Murfreesboro, Tennessee- Funding Source: Parents (Attachment A3)

**AGENDA**
No items are on the agenda.

**REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS**
Dr. Winstead provided an update on the renovated District Office, Maryville Academy, and Maryville Virtual School space. Maryville City Schools was granted full occupancy on Friday, September 6, and Maryville Academy will move into their new space on Friday, September 13. The roof project is projected to be competed around fall break. Dr. Winstead shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on October 24.

Dr. Winstead announced that the Exploring School Leadership series, which began in spring 2024 with approximately 25-30 participants, will continue with two sessions this fall. The first fall session will focus on teaching and learning, while the final session will address student discipline, test scores, and data analysis. After the fourth session, a new Exploring School Leadership series will be launched in the spring. If there is interest, MCS may introduce Exploring School Leadership Series II to explore topics on a deeper level.

**RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS**
**Maryville High School:**
The following students are AP Capstone Diploma recipients for the 2024 AP exam window: Abigail Burkhalter, Qaswa Gul, Keith Kirk, Tosh Middleton, Aidan Thomas, and Avery Thomas.

Victoria Connatser and Madelyn Coulter received the AP Capstone Certificate.

To earn the AP Capstone Diploma, students must have scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing. This is an outstanding achievement, and the award is acknowledged on any AP score report sent to colleges after the award is conferred.

Athletics: Boys and Girls golf teams are once again the Blount County Champions.

**Foothills Elementary:**
FHE welcomed over 1,200 families over 2 days for its annual Grand Event where grandparents and family members are invited to eat with their students.

**John Sevier Elementary:**
Congratulations to Team John Sevier for winning the school competition for the most team members participating in this year's Miles 4 Maryville Foundation event.

**Sam Houston:**
SHE kicked off its Watch Dog Program, and over 200 dads and students were in attendance. They learned about the program, ate pizza, and enjoyed the story walk and playground.

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Candy Morgan** thanked Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Blizzard for instilling an expectation for students to bring forth their best and instilling this life-long skill at such an early age. She also congratulated JSE on winning the Miles 4 Maryville trophy.

**Isaac Simerly** thanked Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Blizzard for the physical updates to the John Sevier campus, stating that the school looks beautiful and feels like a great place for students. He thanked Mrs. Hilton, MHS Principal, for allowing high school students to visit JSE's elementary students to assist in classrooms and other areas of the school. He shared his enthusiasm for the *Roadmap to Responsibility* book study. Mr. Simerly concluded by expressing his excitement for the grand opening of the new District Office and the growth of the Miles 4 Maryville fundraiser.

**Nick Black** thanked Mr. Oliver and John Sevier Elementary for hosting tonight's meeting and for his contagious enthusiasm. He commented on the visuals around the school that promote comradery. Mr. Black thanked JSE for hosting the upcoming Patriot's Day assembly on September 11, stating that the assembly is an excellent example for students. He praised the renovations to the New District Office and thanked Dr. Winstead for being fiscally conservative throughout the process, allowing funds to be directed to students and curriculum. Mr. Black concluded by saying that he is blessed to have his own children in Maryville City Schools.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene