BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for October 21, 2024

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 21 at John Sevier Elementary School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Bart Stinnett and Candy Morgan. Chair Julie Elder called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence to honor the memories of Karen Schito and Julie Willenborg, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sam Houston student Slade McBee.

UPDATE FROM SAM HOUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Molly Rice and Assistant Principal Lucas Vagnier shared a presentation on a “day in the life” of a Sam Houston Smokie, starting with the individual welcome students receive from their teachers when the doors open at 7:35 a.m. They emphasized the importance of greeting each student by name, ensuring everyone feels seen and supported. They also recognized Officer Buchanan for his important role in making students feel valued by greeting them at the front entrance and assisting kindergarteners with morning drop-off.

Mrs. Rice and Mr. Vagnier shared best practices inside and outside the classroom, focusing on creating valuable learning opportunities. They highlighted many of the available programs offered by Sam Houston, from specials to intervention services, and shared how the school celebrates students' hard work. They also stressed that the school day doesn’t end at 2:40, as Sam Houston offers a variety of programs, such as grade-level events, ELL nights, Story Walks, Book Bingo, Creative Club, Smokie Sprinters, and Air Bears.

Their presentation concluded with a video showcasing student life at Sam Houston.

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

1. Baseball Coach Jason Lambert spoke in support of Agenda Topic 1 (Consider bids for the MHS Track and Baseball Buildings). Coach Lambert highlighted the need for a place to change into uniforms, meet as a team, and store personal property. He thanked the School Board for considering the bid and for the time and energy they have invested in meeting the needs of the team.
2. Track Coach Nick White also spoke in support of Agenda Topic 1 (Consider bids for the MHS Track and Baseball Buildings). He shared his appreciation for a great facility and stated the next step is to provide the over 140 track athletes with restroom facilities and a place to change into uniforms. Coach White expressed his gratitude to the School Board for valuing a track facility for student athletes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Approve Minutes of September 9, 2024, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve Maryville High School Baseball Team overnight trip to Bradenton, Florida to attend the Hurricane Classic - Funding Source: Varsity Baseball (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville High School Model UN overnight to Chattanooga, Tennessee to attend conference – Funding Source: Model UN (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Coulter Grove Intermediate School Student Leadership overnight trip to Washington, DC – Funding Source: students (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville High School Boys and Girls Cross Country overnight to Hendersonville, Tennessee to attend TSSAA State Championship – Funding Source: General Athletic (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Rangers overnight trip to Cincinnati, Ohio- Funding Source: students (Attachment A5)
7. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Key Club to Dollywood (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Maryville High School Cheer trips to Murfreesboro, Tennessee and Birmingham, Alabama (Attachment A7)
9. Approve Maryville High School Varsity Boys' Basketball overnight trip to Nashville, Tennessee to compete in games at Independence High School – Funding Source: Boys' Basketball Account (Attachment A8)
10. Approve the 2024 LEA Compliance Report (Attachment A9)
11. Approve the 2024 TISA Accountability Report
12. Approve Maryville High School Wresting Team overnight trip to Asheville, North Carolina for a tournament – Funding Source: Wrestling Account (Attachment A10)

AGENDA

1. Consider bids for the MHS Track and Baseball Buildings (Attachment B1)
    a. Dr. Winstead explained that four companies attended the pre-bid meetings, with three submitting bids. Although Holston Construction submitted the lowest bid, they failed to account for the required 10% contingency, making Leon Williams the next lowest bidder. Dr. Winstead expressed confidence in Leon Williams, highlighting the company's

successful work on the Fort Craig renovations. The project is expected to take 250 days groundbreaking to completion, and he hopes to schedule a meeting within the next two weeks to move the project forward.

   b. Candy Morgan made the motion to award the bid to Leon Williams Construction in the amount $1,496,000.00. Second from Nick Black.
   c. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider joining litigation through the Frantz Law Group pursuing claims against insulin manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers for conspiring to inflate the prices of insulin products.
   a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Candy Morgan.
   b. Dr. Winstead explained that this litigation addresses insulin manufacturers artificially inflating prices. By joining the lawsuit, Maryville City Schools faces no financial risk, but as a self-insured district, the inflated insulin costs have a direct impact on our general-purpose budget—the same budget that funds teacher and staff salaries, as well as building maintenance. Participating in the litigation could allow MCS to potentially recover some funds.
   c. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead welcomed everyone back from fall break. He presented a map showing the current elementary school zones and shared his plans for rezoning. Families of impacted students will be notified and given the opportunity to participate in a public input session.

The proposed changes would move 78 students from Foothills Elementary to Sam Houston Elementary, capturing students along Morganton Road, while approximately 35 students would shift from Sam Houston to John Sevier Elementary. These adjustments will maintain balanced enrollment and demographics across the three elementary schools, while also allowing for future expansion at Sam Houston. Additionally, the rezoning will increase John Sevier Elementary to eight teachers per grade level.

Dr. Winstead stated that students will have the option to be grandfathered into their current schools. The timeline includes posting maps on the website and social media as soon as they are available, with a public input session planned for the same evening as the November board meeting.

He shared that the District Office, Maryville Virtual School, and Maryville Academy are fully moved into the renovated Fort Craig building. He stated he hopes for a great turnout at the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house scheduled for Thursday, October 24.

Dr, Winstead reflected on a tough week for our Maryville family as we lost two employees, stating that the death of a staff member hits hard in a smaller district where we are deeply invested in one another.

Julie Willenburg received her 25-year longevity pin last school year. During her tenure with Maryville City Schools, she taught at Sam Houston, Maryville Intermediate School, and Coulter Grove Intermediate School. She was a loving and dedicated educator, with an unmatched work ethic, who was devoted to both students and co-workers.

Dr. Winstead recognized Karen Schito as an extraordinary leader and individual with boundless optimism. He shared that Karen had a deep love for children and encouraged us all to model her life by the way she selflessly loved and served others.

He extended his thoughts and prayers to the family, friends, students, and staff who have been affected by the loss of these two remarkable educators who made a lasting impact on Maryville City Schools.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville High School:

Volleyball is competing for a state title in Murfreesboro. The first match will be played tomorrow at East Hamilton. If they win, they will play again on Wednesday at noon, and if they lose, they will play at 5:00 p.m.

The Maryville High School Orchestra held a fundraiser concert with the Driftboat Cowboys and raised over $3,000. We are thankful for the City of Maryville for providing the Greenbelt Amphitheatre for what turned out to be a great community event.

Maryville Junior High School

The MJHS Football team won the East Tennessee Sectional Championship against Lake Forest Middle School, 35-16.

Congratulations to MJHS and MHS art students who participated in and earned ribbons in the Heritage Center's Annual Blue Ribbon County Fair's Student Art Competition. Ten art students' art works were recently on display at The Heritage Center, complete with winning ribbons. Best-of-Show AND ALSO First Place Awards for Middle School have gone to Evie Pointer. Second Place and Third Place for Middle School have gone to Charlotte Murphy and Reagan Arnott, respectively. Joyce Alexander and Cora Hardy have received Participation ribbons for Middle School.

For High School placement, First Place Award has gone to Erin Chen. Second Place and Third Place for High School have gone to Grace Morgan and Allison Ortega, respectively. Ella Fritts and Lexy Jones have received Participation ribbons for High School.

John Sevier Elementary

JSE held its annual Fox Trot fundraiser and raised over $36,000. Students celebrated with Snow Biz Snow Cones and watched Mrs. Blizzard and Mr. Oliver get dunked in water dunk tanks.

Foothills Elementary

Foothills kicked off the Raccoon Romp with a school-wide pep rally, and the MRIS and MHS cheerleaders celebrated with the students to give their "Personal best, nothing less!"

District

Following the flooding in upper East Tennessee, we reached out to our MCS families, asking if they would like to donate water and other needed items. The overwhelming response, truckloads and trailer loads of donations, is a true testament to the spirit of what it means to be Maryville. Sarah Pritchard, Heather Ledbetter, Joe Robinette, and Dr. Winstead personally delivered the donations to the affected area.

Niche.com Rankings: #1 Best Teachers in Tennessee; #1 District in Tennessee; #2 Best Place to Teach in Tennessee; #2 Best Athletes in Tennessee. In the greater Knoxville area, SHE, JSE, and FHE are ranked in the top 5 elementary schools. In the greater Knoxville area, CGIS, MRIS, and MJHS are ranked in the top 5 middle schools, and MHS is ranked as the 3rd top high school.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett commented on the difficult week for the Maryville City Schools family, sharing that we hurt, laugh, and cry together. He thanked Mrs. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for building a strong foundation for students at Sam Houston. Mr. Stinnett thanked Coach Lambert and Coach White for attending tonight's meeting and stated that athletic facilities are a continuation of the classroom where students learn important life skills such as achieving goals and teamwork. He shared his love and appreciation for the administrators, teachers, and staff who work with students each day.

Candy Morgan expressed her sympathy to the families of Karen Schito and Julie Willenborg. She recollected a conversation with her own children about the difficulty of wrapping one's head around why some people are taken at an age when they still had much life to live. She said that Ms. Schito and Ms. Willenborg will always be remembered. Mrs. Morgan thanked Mrs. Rice and Mr. Vagnier for hosting tonight's meeting and stated that it's always a joy to visit Sam Houston. She thanked Coach Lambert and expressed her appreciation for the impact the baseball and track athletic facilities have made in the lives of students.

Nick Black expressed his gratitude to Mr. Vagnier and Mrs. Rice for their presentation and for sharing the best practices at Sam Houston. He also thanked Officer Buchanan for his dedication to serving students. Mr. Black shared his excitement about the new facilities at the baseball field and track, emphasizing the importance of investing in students. He voiced his appreciation for the careful thought put into the rezoning process. He commented he is looking forward to Thursday's open house and said he is thankful for the District's investment in renovating Fort Craig. Mr. Black reflected on how blessed he feels to have his children in Maryville City Schools, noting that Julie Willenborg and Karen Schito are important parts of that experience.

Julie Elder shared her appreciation for the perspective of "a day in the life' of a Sam Houston student. She stated she was blessed her own children attended Sam Houton. She concluded by commenting on the phenomenal impact Karen Schito and Julie Willenborg have made on Maryville City Schools.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene