BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for November 18, 2024

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:3 p.m. on Monday, November 18 at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Bart Stinnett and Candy Morgan. Chair Julie Elder called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by 7th grade student Caroline Gillooly.

UPDATE FROM MONTGOMERY RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Principal David Claxon welcomed guests to Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School, providing an overview of the school's current accomplishments and goals. He shared that Montgomery Ridge has 878 students and 112 dedicated certified and classified staff.

This year's school theme, *Go for the Gold*, emphasizes goal-setting and progress monitoring as pathways to success. It centers on key pillars: achievement, growth, professional development, and fostering a positive culture. A cornerstone of this culture is the *Capturing Kids' Hearts* (CKH) program, which remains a vital part of the school community. Principal Claxon highlighted its implementation through social contracts, daily "good things," and student greeters. For staff, CKH is supported through self-assessments and opportunities to observe and learn from peers actively using CKH resources in their classrooms.

Principal Claxon also reflected on the November 5 district-wide professional development day, emphasizing Montgomery Ridge's commitment to preparing students to become ready graduates. This mission embraces the ready graduate skills of respect, resilience, effective communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

Leadworthy Elite students Caroline Gillooly, Sky Carter, Jack Fugate, and Luke Evans shared how Leadworthy principles influence their school experiences and daily lives. They spoke about initiatives such as student-led announcements, the mentoring program, and the *Game Changer* box, tying their message to the theme that effort drives success.

To conclude, Principal Claxon recognized MRIS teacher and Leadworthy sponsor Jeremy Miller for his invaluable contributions to the school and for developing student leaders.

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.

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 October21, 2024, meeting (Attachment)
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Volleyball Team overnight to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the State Volleyball Championship – Funding Source: Athletics Department – Attachment A1
3. Approve Maryville Junior High School Chorus class overnight to Orlando, Florida for festival performance at OrlandoFest – Funding Source: students (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Maryville High School Winter Color Guard overnight to Dayton, Ohio for WGI Color Guard World Championship – Funding Source: Winter Guard Account (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville High School Chorus classes overnight to Orlando, Florida for festival performance at OrlandoFest – Funding Source: students (Attachment A4)
6. Approve committee members for the science textbook adoption – Attachment A5)

AGENDA

1. Consider changes to Board Policy 6.2001 (Attendance During Postsecondary Visit) Attachment B1
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. A state law allows students to participate in post-secondary college visits to support their exploration of higher education opportunities. In alignment with the *Ready Graduate* initiative and the focus on post-secondary readiness for all students, this opportunity is being expanded to include structured job-shadowing experiences. These options will be available to students in grades 10 through 12, offering them the chance to explore both college and career pathways. Students will be counted as present for the days they participate in these experiences.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Consider bids to replace HVAC units at Coulter Grove Intermediate and Maryville Junior High School – Funding Source: Building improvements – Attachment B2
    a. Dr. Winstead discussed the replacement of HVAC units that are either beyond repair or too costly to repair. The replacements include 5 units at MJHS and 2 units at CGIS. After receiving bids from 3 contractors, the lowest bid was submitted by Interstate Mechanical.
    b. Nick Black made the motion to accept the lowest bid from Interstate Mechanical. Second from Candy Morgan.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider purchase of a replacement intercom system for John Sevier Elementary School – $29,037.17 - Funding Source: Building Improvements (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that the intercom system at JSE went out 2 weeks ago and, according to Gallaher, can no longer be repaired. He recommended replacing it with the same system currently in use at Sam Houston Elementary.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Consider quote from PCS for network overhaul - $520,050.59 – Funding Source: Technology/Other Equipment (Attachment B4)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Assistant Director Amy Vagnier explained the current system, both wired and wireless, has exceeded its expected lifespan of 5-7 years, lasting over 10 years. The proposed first step is to address the wired system, with work anticipated to begin in February. The wireless system will be maintained until 2026 if possible, with the hope of securing future discounts. This project includes a 50% discount, making it a cost-effective investment. The overhaul is a step forward in strengthening the infrastructure to support future advancements in technology.

c. Mr. Black expressed his appreciation for Andy Lombardo and the tech team for extending the life of the current system.
d. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Consider elementary school zoning proposal for the 2025-2026 school year – (Attachment B5)
    a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead referenced the rezoning maps and provided an overview of the proposed plan:
        i. The proposed elementary rezoning plan aims to alleviate overcrowding and balance student populations across Maryville City Schools' three elementary schools.
        ii. Sam Houston to John Sevier: 27 K-2 students will be rezoned from Sam Houston to John Sevier. Area impacted: North of Sevierville Road between Columbus Street and South Washington Avenue.
        iii. Foothills to Sam Houston: 57 K-2 students will be rezoned from Foothills Elementary to Sam Houston Elementary. Areas impacted: Morganton Reserve, The Cottages at Cades Cove, Oak Tree Apartments (Blue Sky Drive), Wilson Road, Moonrise Lane, and Westside Drive.
        iv. Impacted families will have the option to keep their children enrolled at their current school if they are willing to provide transportation. Additional information about the "stay put" provision will be shared with affected families after a motion is approved.
        v. This rezoning plan reflects the district's commitment to managing growth while ensuring a high-quality educational environment for all students.
    c. Nick Black expressed his gratitude for the work and research for the proposed rezoning plan, noting that it represents the best solution for the district. Bart Stinnett acknowledged the challenges and frustrations surrounding the decision, emphasizing that it is a difficult but necessary step.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead highlighted the professional development activities on November 5. K-2 teachers participated in vertical collaboration at their schools, while teachers in grades 3-12 worked in grade-level and subject-area groups at Maryville High School. The focus was on aligning goals with the desired ready graduate outcomes. Dr. Winstead emphasized that this was the first step in ongoing conversations with teachers to foster collaboration and continuous improvement.

Work has begun on the new facility at the track, which will be a valuable addition to the district and student athletes. He also commended Leon Williams for their fast progress.

Dr. Winstead expressed his frustration with the reemergence of voucher proposals at the legislative level, following similar discussions last year. The new proposal introduces incremental changes that move toward the ultimate goal of universal vouchers without limits on the number of students or income eligibility. Key differences in this year's proposal include:

- Exclusion of Category 4 (church-related) schools, focusing only on Categories 1, 2, and 3. However, provisions could easily be added in the future to include Category 4 schools and homeschools.

- A requirement for participating schools to administer TCAPs or a nationally normed test, which they already do.
- A $2,000 bonus for public school teachers.

Dr. Winstead noted that the proposal leverages unallocated funds, such as sports gambling revenue, 80% of which is directed toward school construction. However, this funding is distributed at the state level, prioritizing economically disadvantaged areas. Unlike last year, the fiscal note does not include specific funding increases, instead framing the proposal as sustainable within its first year. Dr. Winstead warned that this approach makes the proposal more challenging to oppose.

He informed the board that the City Council met in a work session and plans to renew their resolution opposing the voucher proposal. They also intend to update the language to reflect the current context.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Foothills Elementary School:
Foothills Elementary had another successful Raccoon Romp, meeting and exceeding their goal by raising $41,886.00. They closed out the event with a silent disco – which was a huge hit for the students.

On November 14, David Biedryzcki, author of *Artificial Intelligence* and *Me and My Dragon*, visited Foothills and shared about his journey as a writer. Thank you to the Language Arts Committee for planning this opportunity for students.

Maryville High School:
This was the Key Club's second year hosting a Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival, and the event was once again a success. There were over 36 trunks, and many families from our community enjoyed the event.

MHS's DECA chapter participated in the district competitions in Knoxville on November 13, and out of the 30 students who competed, 23 students qualified to advance to the state competition. We are proud of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence in business and marketing.

Maryville Junior High:
MJHS hosted a job fair for 8th grade students, and 59 industry community professionals and 10 colleges were represented.

District-Wide:
We are grateful to our schools for hosting Veterans Day Programs to honor those who serve and have served our Country.

We are grateful to all those who attended the Ribbon Cutting and Open House for our new District Office, MA, and MVS. We especially want to recognize the culinary students from MJHS and MHS, the Red Rebel Marching Band, and the MHS Orchestra Quintet for sharing their talents and making this a memorable event for MCS.

Athletics:
Varsity volleyball made their 5th consecutive trip to State. Ended up with highest finish at 3rd overall with 24-18 record (and arguably toughest regular season schedule in the state).

The MHS cheerleaders are state runner up in the large non-tumbling division.

Boys XC
Region 3 Team Runner-up. Tommy Babbitt 2nd overall with 15:44 time.
4th Consecutive team trip to state. 11th consecutive appearance by MHS at State.
Team 16th at State. Tommy Babbitt, 10th, All-State finishing 14th overall

Girls XC
Region 3 team 3rd. Emma Roberts Region Champion overall with 18:29 time.
4th Consecutive team trip and MHS appearance at state.
Team 15th at State. Emma Roberts, 20th overall.

The football team had a great win against Science Hill in the first round of the playoffs, and we look forward to hosting Bearden on Friday night.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett

Thanked the Leadworthy Elite students for their presentation. He also thanked Mr. Claxton for hosting tonight's meeting.

Candy Morgan

Ms. Morgan thanked the Leadworthy students for showcasing the valuable skills they have learned, emphasizing how these skills are essential for life success. She also addressed the ongoing discussion around vouchers, sharing insights from the TSBA conference, where vouchers were a major focus. And shared TSBA's plan to educate and raise awareness in TN school districts.

Nick Black

Mr. Black thanked Mr. Claxton for hosting and for providing updates on Montgomery Ridge's *Going for Gold* initiatives. He expressed excitement about seeing the next generation of Leadworthy students and commended Jeremy Miller and the students for their excellent work.

On vouchers, Mr. Black expressed continued opposition for the voucher proposal that undermines public education statewide. He voiced disappointment in the ongoing attempts to divert funding away from public schools and noted that this fight appears to be a recurring challenge.

Julie Elder

Ms. Elder thanked Mr. Claxon and Montgomery Ridge for hosting tonight's board meeting. She emphasized that Montgomery Ridge's enrollment of 878 students exceeds its capacity of 800, placing it well over 100%. While this situation is manageable for now, it is not sustainable.

She praised the Leadworthy Elite students for their enthusiasm and dedication, noting how they continue to push themselves to excel. She also commended Jeremy Miller for his ongoing leadership. Ms. Elder congratulated Candy Morgan and Nick Black on their reelection for another four years, expressing gratitude for their service.

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, she concluded by thanking everyone for their contributions to Maryville City Schools and expressing her appreciation for the board and the community.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene