BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 21, 2025

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 21 at Maryville High School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, 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 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Maryville High School Principal Heather Hilton welcomed guests and shared a presentation highlighting the school's achievements during the first half of the academic year. She celebrated MHS being named a Reward School, earning 152 Industry Certifications, and achieving Level 5 growth in math, along with an overall school letter grade of A. She also recognized accomplishments in athletics and fine arts. In addition to academic and extracurricular successes, she emphasized Maryville High School's commitment to community engagement, noting that students contributed 3,500 hours of service and raised over $77,000 for non-profit organizations through homecoming events. Mrs. Hilton concluded by affirming MHS's dedication to caring for students, challenging them academically, and helping them in their next steps toward their postsecondary goals.

Work-Based Learning Coordinator Rosanna Giles provided an update on the program's growth and impact, expressing gratitude to the school board and Dr. Winstead for prioritizing work-based learning by making her position full-time. She shared that the program now has a database of 400 business partners, representing a network of community members deeply invested in the success of Maryville students. Mrs. Giles highlighted the importance of networking in her role, as not everyone in the community is aware of how they can connect with and support students. She shared that WBL credit-bearing classes have expanded this year, and opportunities have been extended to students at Maryville Virtual School. She also outlined recent and upcoming initiatives, including lunchtime meet-and-greets, January Job Sessions, a job fair, and a second job fair scheduled for April to showcase summer job opportunities. Throughout her update, she underscored the personal stories behind the numbers and emphasized the importance of building connections between students and the community to foster meaningful opportunities.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

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

1. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2024, meeting (Attachment)

2. Approve changes to Board Policy 2.201 – (Attachment A1) second reading.
3. Approve Maryville High School DECA overnight to Chattanooga, Tennessee for DECA State Competitions – Funding Source: Students/Club (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Cheer overnight trip to Orlando, Florida – Funding Source: Student fundraising (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville Junior High School Band overnight trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for ETSBOA All-State Band Clinic – Funding Source: Student (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Maryville Junior High School Band overnight trip to Nashville, Tennessee to attend TMEA All-State Convention – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A5)
7. Approve Maryville High School Track overnight trip to Mountain Brook, Alabama to compete in track meet – Funding Source: Track (Attachment A6)

AGENDA

1. Consider quote from E. Luke Greene Company for asbestos abatement at Maryville Junior High School - $34,400.00 Funding Source: Building Improvements (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan
    b. Dr. Winstead provided an update on the second phase of the tile replacement project at Maryville Junior High School. This phase focuses on replacing the original tile in the old section of the building on the second floor. The District will cover the cost of asbestos abatement, while the junior high will use its school funds to pay for the installation of the new tile. The project is scheduled to take place over the summer.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Consider quote from Central Technologies for an Avigilon Server - $39,102.08 – Funding Source: Technology Other Equipment (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained the purchase of additional cameras for CGIS will address exterior blind spots. The District will fund the server required for the system, while CGIS will be responsible for purchasing the cameras.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Consider quote from Central Technologies for security cameras at Coulter Grove Intermediate School - $32,668.98 Funding Source: CGIS School Funds (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead clarified that the funding will cover the purchase of approximately 18 exterior cameras.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Consider changes to Board Policies 4.603 (Promotions and Retentions) and 5.118 (Background Investigations) – First reading (Attachment B4)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) provided model policies for review. One update includes a minor change regarding parents who voluntarily wish to retain a child in grades 1 or 2, with TSBA adding a timeline outlined in lines 7-9. Another policy update pertains to background checks. He noted that in 2018, a law was enacted requiring staff to undergo background checks every five years. However, this process was intended to continue only until the state was ready to implement the FBI's Rap Back program. With Rap Back, employees' fingerprints are entered into a system that monitors and checks records nightly. Maryville City Schools piloted this program last year, and while it is more convenient for employees, the $50-per-employee cost makes it a costly solution for the district.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider quote from Gillenwater Flooring and Kitchen Gallery for installation of tile in 10 Maryville Junior High School classrooms -$28,799.64 Funding Source: MJHS School Funds (Attachment B5)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Consider quote for exterior painting at Maryville Junior High School - $37,169.50 – Funding Source: MJHS School Funds (Attachment B6)
    a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Assistant Director of Schools Amy Vagnier detailed the junior high's plan to update the exterior of the building by painting the fiberglass panels that replaced the original windows with a soft medium to light gray with accents of black. She emphasized the refreshed look with an updated color scheme would mirror the interior updates.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Consider transferring funds to the Maryville City Schools Construction Fund for Phase 1 of the Maryville High School project.
    a. Chair Julie Elder expressed her appreciation for Maryville City Council's decision to move forward with the project.
    b. Dr. Winstead provided an update on the Maryville High School expansion project, describing it as an exciting milestone in the history of Maryville City Schools. He noted that progress will accelerate quickly and presented a detailed drawing outlining the phases of the project. He highlighted the timeline, explaining that Phase 1, with a projected cost of $5.5 million, will focus on the south side of the campus. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in July 2025. Dr. Winstead also addressed the accommodations that will need to be made for student and staff parking during the construction period. He announced March 3, 2025, as the official groundbreaking date. Since the bond funding from the City of Maryville will not be available until July 1, the District will use the school construction fund to cover costs through June 30. He added that the City Council will meet on February 4, with the bond resolution included on the agenda.
    c. Nick Black made the motion that MCS transfer $1,384,399 from our General Purpose Budget to Maryville City's School Construction Fund for Phase 1 of the MHS Expansion Project.
    d. Candy Morgan seconded the motion.
    e. Mr. Black requested a copy of the project timeline in a list format, including the proposed completion dates for each phase. He also expressed a desire to share the plans with the community through social media and the MCS website.
    f. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead outlined the next steps for completing the hallway project at Sam Houston Elementary School. He explained that the old asbestos tile has already been removed from the classrooms, and the hallway will be the next focus.

He then expressed his enthusiasm for two upcoming events in February. The first is One Book Blitz, which kicks off on the first Monday in February. Dr. Winstead extended his gratitude to the sponsors who make this event possible, benefiting students across all three school districts in Blount County. He also shared his excitement about the District's annual Spotlight event, scheduled for February 17. This year,

the event will be held at Sevier Heights Church in Knoxville, which will provide a venue large enough to accommodate all MCS employees.

Dr. Winstead also shared an exciting update regarding the Maryville City Schools Foundation, which is providing the seed money to fund Magic School AI for the district. The first year of the program will cost $27,000, with the district assuming the recurring costs. On February 17, all MCS teachers will gain access to the pilot program, which will transition to a full license once the pilot period concludes. Dr. Winstead expressed his enthusiasm for introducing this opportunity to MCS teachers.

He concluded with a statement regarding the proposed voucher bill, noting that all three State Representatives who represent the district have confirmed they will vote against the legislation.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Sam Houston is proud to recognize the dedication and creativity of Mrs. Foshee, Mrs. Stansberry, and Mrs. Moore. On Friday mornings before school, these teachers host a special reading session where students enjoy a book while getting their hair braded. Each child chooses the type of braid she wants and leaves with her very own brush and a Smokie hair bow. Thank you to these teachers for finding a unique and engaging way to inspire a love of reading in our students!

Congratulations to the girls bowling team. The team won the Region Championship before being eliminated on Friday, only one win away from state.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Candy Morgan expressed her excitement about the MHS renovation project. She thanked Dr. Winstead for his endurance and keeping this much-needed project at the forefront.

Nick Black thanked everyone for their patience with the high school project, stating, “We are going to get there.” He shared his gratitude for a productive meeting with City Council and expressed his appreciation for their support. Mr. Black concluded by thanking Mrs. Giles for sharing about the Work-based Learning opportunities made available to students.

Bart Stinnet commented that this is an exciting time in the history of Maryville City Schools. He shared that MCS is setting students up to be successful now and for the next generation.

Isaac Simerly also expressed his excitement about moving forward with the renovation and expansion of Maryville High School, sharing that “it’s a great deal to spend the 1.4 million to get the project moving.” He thanked Dr. Winstead for his commitment and emphasized that the project is needed because of the current overcrowding. Mr. Simerly thanked Mrs. Hilton and Mrs. Giles, highlighting the number of industry certifications earned by MHS students. He concluded by thanking Dr. Best for putting money towards security cameras to enhance school safety.

Julie Elder shared her excitement, on behalf of the School Board, about the MHS project. She stated that she wants it to be apparent to the community and parents that, “we are put our money where our mouth is” by providing funding to put the project in motion. She thanked Mrs. Giles for her presentation, making note of the Ready Graduate percentage of 70%. She thanked Mrs. Giles for being a bridge between the

community and students and expressed her excitement about the summer job fair. She concluded by reiterating, “numbers don’t mean anything without people.”

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene