BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 17, 2025

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 17 at Foothills Elementary 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 by kindergarten student Chandler Snodderly.

UPDATE FROM FOOTHILLS ELEMENTARY

Principal Kristin Bosco welcomed the School Board and provided an update on Foothills Elementary and the 672 students who are served each day. She shared two of the school's key goals: (1) Identifying and addressing the needs of students, families, and staff and (2) Strengthening the Foothills Community. Assistant Principal Rob Hensley then presented Goal 3: Fostering shared ownership through collaboration and Goal 4: Using data to drive instructional improvements.

Mrs. Bosco highlighted what sets Foothills apart, emphasizing a legacy of excellence, ownership, unique grade-level traditions, dedication beyond expectations, a positive workplace culture, lifelong connections, and an approach to education that prioritizes joy. She shared specific examples of how these values help build meaningful connections with students.

School counselors Megan Jett and interim counselor Sarah Salerno spoke about the importance of relationships as the foundation for student success. They detailed how their work supports students from the moment they arrive at school until they leave, offering interventions tailored to different grade levels. Their role includes equipping students with coping skills, self-control, goal-setting, and empathy while also connecting families with community resources. They emphasized that student needs evolve each year, and data plays a crucial role in guiding services to remove barriers to learning.

Behavior team members Rosie Turner and Ashley Hammonds introduced Rocky Reset, a structured space designed to help students regulate their emotions through a variety of supports. They shared highlights from the Rocky Rangers program, which provides small-group instruction focused on reflection, restoration, and practice.

In closing, Principal Bosco and her team thanked the Board for their ongoing support and expressed appreciation for the expansion of key programs, reinforcing that doubling efforts will lead to doubling results.

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

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 January 21, 2025, meeting (Attachment)

2. Approve changes to Board Policies 4.603 and 5.118. Second reading (Attachment A1)

3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Bowling Team overnight to Smyrna, Tennessee for TSSAA State Championships – Funding Source: MHS General Athletics (Attachment A2)

4. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Girls Wrestling Team overnight to Franklin, Tennessee for TSSAA State Championships – Funding Source: MHS General Athletics (Attachment A3)

5. Approve Maryville High School Interact Club overnight to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee for District Interact Conference – Funding Source: Maryville Rotary Club (Attachment A4)

6. Ratify Executive Committee approval of quote from PCS for additional network overhaul – $40,613.00 - Funding Source: Technology/Other Equipment (Attachment A5)

7. Ratify Executive Committee approval of quote from Magic School, Inc – $27,000.00 - Funding Source: Regular Education/Instruction (Attachment A6)

8. Approve Maryville High School SCOPE delegates overnight to Nashville, Tennessee to attend SCOPE Conference – Funding Source: Maryville City Schools (Attachment A7)

9. Approve Maryville High School Hiking Club overnight to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Funding Source: students (Attachment A8)

AGENDA

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead provided updates on key district initiatives, beginning with the annual Spotlight event, which took place earlier in the day at Sevier Heights Church. He praised the venue and expressed gratitude to the administrators and planning team for organizing the event, which celebrates all Maryville City Schools employees.

He then highlighted the high school expansion project, noting that the PBA met last week and fully approved the project, eliminating the need for further review. With plans moving forward quickly, the groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for March 3 at 2 p.m.

Dr. Winstead also announced the rollout of Magic School AI, stating that all teachers will have an active license by Tuesday or Wednesday. He thanked the Maryville City Schools Foundation for funding the initiative.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville High School would like to congratulate the twenty-three band students who participated in the ETSBOA All-State East Senior Clinic in Gatlinburg and worked with other students selected by audition from around the region. In addition, the MHS Winter Guard competed at the East TN Performing Arts Association's competition and brought home 2nd place and the fan favorite award.

Maryville High School is also proud to announce that seniors Taniya Bharwad, James Irvine, and Keith Kirk II have been named National Merit Finalists, a prestigious recognition awarded to the nation's top high school scholars.

Maryville Junior High would like to congratulate teacher Andy Herbert for being selected to receive one of TSPE's GEARS competitive grant awards.

John Sevier would like to give a shout out to our JSE staff for hosing WBIR for OBB kickoff day, and to our teachers who made our OBB assembly a huge hit not only for our school but also for our surrounding community.

Foothills Elementary also kicked off OBB with some exciting decorations, a daily trivia challenge where the fastest class to call in with the correct answer wins and Og the Frog stuffed animal for the day and gets their class picture added to the OBB photo album. Another exciting activity is the estimation jar, where students guessed the number of frogs inside for a change to win a prize.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Candy Morgan expressed appreciation for Principal Kristin Bosco and Assistant Principal Rob Hensley, commending them for the outstanding work they are doing at Foothills Elementary. She noted their ability to create a strong sense of teamwork within the school community. She also praised the Rocky Reset program, emphasizing its importance in supporting students with behavioral challenges while also providing valuable support to teachers.

Nick Black expressed gratitude to Principal Kristin Bosco and Assistant Principal Rob Hensley, echoing the appreciation shared by others. He enjoyed seeing the team's presentation on school programs and emphasized the strong sense of unity among staff. As a parent of a pre-K student, Mr. Black reflected on the positive energy and synergy within the school, noting that Spotlight reinforced the blessing of being part of a district where everyone shares the same goals for student success. He also thanked Sam Houston Principal Molly Rice for inviting him to spend time in classrooms during School Board Appreciation Week, describing it as a meaningful experience. He recognized the challenges of the past month but emphasized how fortunate the district is.

Bart Stinnett thanked Principal Kristin Bosco and expressed pride in the school's approach to using data as a tool for improvement. He emphasized the importance of ownership and relationships, highlighting them as key components of student success.

Isaac Simmerly thanked Principal Kristin Bosco and Assistant Principal Rob Hensley for their leadership. He shared his appreciation for the story about Mr. Jim and the important role he plays in building relationships at Foothills Elementary. He also expressed excitement for the upcoming high school groundbreaking ceremony and praised the Spotlight event for celebrating district employees. Additionally, he thanked MHS Principal Heather Hilton for organizing a successful job fair.

Julie Elder expressed appreciation for the day's events, noting the wonderful level of excitement and thanking those who helped organize and host. She highlighted Megan Jett's statement about students being at the center of the Foothills community. She concluded by thanking everyone for fostering a strong, supportive community dedicated to loving and supporting children.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene