

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call 	<p>Members Present: Marsha Hagan Warden, Chair; Ed Kindall, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; David A. Fox; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Mark North; Gracie Porter; George H. Thompson, III</p> <p>Ms. Warden called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge of Allegiance 	Led by Gra-Mar Middle Drum Ensemble.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Showcase – Gra-Mar Middle Drum Ensemble 	The Gra-Mar Middle School Drum Ensemble performed for the Board.	
LINKAGE SESSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanderbilt Math and Science Program 	<p>Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach is a program that collaborates with MNPS to engage students in math and science. Dr. Shepherd and staff introduced the newest program, The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt. This school is a four-year commitment based on research-centered, interdisciplinary curriculum moving from team projects to independent research. Students are taught by full-time Ph.D. science instructors with adjunct teaching and mentoring by Vanderbilt research faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students. Students earn MNPS honors credit for academic and summer courses and attend school, located on the Vanderbilt campus, one day per week. The school is funded by Vanderbilt University Medical Center, National Institute of Health, and Nashville Alliance for Public Education.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson asked how are you reaching children interested in the program, but due to various circumstances are not able to score high on the tests? Dr. Shepherd said one of their goals is to ensure that students who do not usually have access to these programs have access. Furthermore, she hopes to create a bridge program that will take MNPS students and prepare them for opportunities such as the school at Vanderbilt. Ms. Porter asked how the Board could help spread the good news of the program to attract more students. Dr. Shepherd said we may be able to strategize with the Board to come up with more ways. Ms. Porter suggested that The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt be an MNPS choice school. Mr. Kindall said with the void of math and science teachers, is there any way to encourage students enrolled in the program to venture into the teaching profession? Dr. Shepherd said she is working hard to create a program that would meet the need of recruiting math and science teachers. Mr. Glover asked if this new program was linked to the Scientist in the Classroom program the Board funded in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget? Dr. Shepherd said some of the middle school students from the science outreach programs funded in the 07-08 budget now attend The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt, so they are linked in that way. Dr. Garcia asked how are the students adjusting to the huge time commitment</p>	

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanderbilt Math and Science Program - continued 	<p>the school requires of students. Mr. Overstreet stated that we have encountered a few challenges but have added a few features in place for students such as independent study times, more time given to complete assignments, etc. Dr. Brannon asked how the children are transported to the school. Mr. Overstreet stated the Nashville Alliance for Public Education donated \$10,000 to help with transportation, lunch, field trips, etc. Ms. Warden asked how could MNPS do better, what should we focus on concerning math and science in schools? Dr. Shepherd stated that the field of math and science is becoming interdisciplinary. We must teach children in an interdisciplinary way. Dr. Garcia asked what training will students gain that can be used in the work field. Mr. Sperling said the students will gain research skills and higher levels of understanding of science and math. Mr. North asked if there is a plan to track alumni of the school? Dr. McCombs said there is a database in place to track progression of students. Mr. Glover said that he believes the idea of Pre-Med in high school is a great idea and would like to see the collaboration of the Administration and Vanderbilt to look into making that idea a reality. Ms. Warden asked if they see the possibility of an expansion of science in all of our middle schools. Dr. Shepherd said that is a possibility and would love to expand if the resources were in place. Dr. Shepherd and staff presented Dr. Garcia with a photo of the first class of The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt. The Board thanked Dr. Shepherd and staff for their hard work for the students of MNPS.</p>	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
<p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent Agenda 	<p>Mr. Kindall made the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: III-A-2-a Approval of Minutes – 10/9/2007 Regular Meeting; III-A-2-b Extension of Contract for Staff Training Regarding Condition Assessments and Facility Inventory – MGT of America, Inc. L-1675 (Control No. A-20824); III-A-2-c Designer Supplement Agreement #4 – Indoor P.E. Rooms at Various Schools, Package F (Crieve-Hall, Kirkpatrick, and Cora-Howe) – Hastings Architecture & Associates – MBOE-02-077 (Control No. A-02827); III-A-2-d Change Order #2 – West End Middle School – Robert S. Biscan Company – MBOE – 05-027; III-A-2-e- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) The Library Corporation, (2.) Tennessee State University, (3.) Centerstone Community Health Center, (4.) Catholic Charities of TN, Inc. III-A-2-f – Approval of School Compliance Report Ms. Johnson seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: For–8-0 Unanimous (Mr. Thompson out of room)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – E-2.6 – ACT/SAT/PSAT/College Entrance 	<p>Ms. Tinnon presented a Power Point on Monitoring Report – Ends (E) - 2.6 – ACT/SAT/PSAT/College Entrance. The Administration believes that the Director has made reasonable progress in meeting End Results 2.6. The ACT is the college entrance examination attempted by the majority of college-bound MNPS students.</p>	

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – E-2.6 – ACT/SAT/PSAT/College Entrance - continued 	<p>The PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The SAT Reasoning Test is a standardized test for college admissions in the United States. During the 2006-2007 school year, a total of 5,074 students took college readiness tests. Of that number, 840 sophomores and 1,105 juniors took the PSAT exam. The SAT was taken by 451 students, while the ACT was taken by a total of 2,678 students. Although our ACT scores have increased from 2006 to 2007, we are slightly below the State and National averages. We are pleased that the number of Metro seniors taking the ACT exam increased for the fourth consecutive year, from 2,392 in 2003 to 2,678 in 2007. ACT scores have remained fairly constant for several years. The ACT Composite average increased to 19.2 in 2007 from 19.1 in 2006. The average English, mathematics, and science scores have remained constant from 2006 to 2007, while average reading scores increased from 19.2 in 2006 to 19.4 in 2007. ACT research shows that it is the rigor of high school courses – rather than simply the number of courses – that best prepares students for college. 840 sophomores and 1,105 juniors took the PSAT during the 2006-2007 school year. Our students taking the PSAT consistently scored higher than the national average. Overall, we saw a 1-point increase on the SAT composite for Metro students, no change for Tennessee students, and a 14-point decline nationally. Over the past five years, we have seen steady increases in Metro SAT scores, which have gone from 25 points below the state average in 2003 to 4 points above the state in 2007. Our 2006-2007 SAT scores surpass the State in reading, but are slightly below the State in math. Our District score far exceeds the national average. Strategies for moving forward include: MNPS has aligned District Standards with ACT standards, and each year these standards are revised to strengthen the correlation with ACT standards. Freshman Academies are in place this year, and our career academies are to be implemented next year. Students will be provided with an advisor/advisee relationship where they are encouraged to take core courses and beyond and are directed to supplemental programs to ensure their success. Area Lead Counselors and school guidance counselors will inform students and parents of ACT and SAT dates and locations through a variety of communication outlets, including a parent brochure. Effective July 1, 2007, the State of Tennessee now mandates and pays for students to take three assessments: at the 8th grade level (EXPLORE), 10th grade level (PLAN), and the 11th grade level (ACT or SAT).</p> <p>Ms. Warden stated that it is very clear that our children’s academic success and the correlation to ACT scores is aligned with academic rigor in the classroom. We must convince parents and students that it is imperative to take math every year in high</p>	

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – E-2.6 – ACT/SAT/PSAT/College Entrance - continued 	<p>school and to take more science. Mr. Fox asked if there is a reason why the PSAT testing results seem to be trending higher and the ACT testing results seem to be stagnant? Dr. Changas said that there is a difference in the number of children who take the PSAT compared to the ACT, which results in those trends. Ms. Porter suggested that we consider hiring teachers to teach ACT prep classes, and also at the beginning of the school year, start a media blitz to promote students to take the ACT/SAT. Mr. Kindall asked if there was a portion on the ACT that students should focus on, and how can the training of teachers help our students? Ms. Tinnon stated with the start of Freshman Academies, we will see a lot of gain because of the relationship between our advisor/advisee program and teachers staying on top of the core courses. We will train teachers on how to interpret the ACT/PSAT data. Mr. Kindall asked if there was a way the funds could be targeted to programs that will help students, especially African-American students, better prepare for ACT/PSAT? Mr. North asked if the state requirement that requires 11th graders to take the ACT or SAT causes difficulty in accessing testing information. Dr. Changas said yes, it will certainly change the demographics of who we are testing. Ms. Johnson stated that the earlier students are exposed to the ACT/SAT, the better prepared the students will be for the test. Are we considering offering ACT/SAT test opportunities at an earlier point, such as middle school? Dr. Changas stated that with the Explorer test in the 8th grade and with the new District Standards, hopefully that will change. We must make the connection that the ACT/SAT skills are not just high school skills. Ms. Johnson stated that we must expose students and parents to the need for students to take the test earlier in order to get better scores from students. Mr. Glover asked what percentage of 11th graders took the ACT/PSAT for 2007? Dr. Changas stated that we would have to research the data to answer that question. Mr. Glover stated that it would be helpful for the Board to view that data. As we move forward, we must consider bringing in math mentors from local universities to aid in the absence of needed math teachers and mentors. Ms. Johnson recommended that the Administration inform parents of ACT/SAT test dates and locations. Ms. Porter requested that the testing sites be in convenient locations. Ms. Tinnon stated that we do not determine the location of the tests, but we can look into providing transportation. Mr. Fox asked what percentage of 11th and 12th graders are Hispanic? Dr. Changas stated that he would research and give the Board a grade-by-grade distribution.</p>	<p>Follow-up: Mr. Glover asked what percentage of 11th graders took the ACT/PSAT for 2007? Dr. Changas stated that we would have to research the data to answer that question. Mr. Glover stated that it would be helpful for the Board to view that data. Mr. Fox asked what percentage of 11th and 12th graders are Hispanic? Dr. Changas stated that he would research and give the Board a grade-by-grade distribution.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – EE-10 – Communication with the Board 	<p>Dr. Garcia presented the Monitoring Report EE-10 – Communication with the Board. The Administration reported to be in compliance with EE-10- Communication with the Board. EE-10 – reads: With respect to providing information and counsel to the Board, the Director shall not fail to give the Board as much information as necessary</p>	

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Monitoring Report – EE-10 – Communication with the Board - continued 	<p>to allow Board members to be adequately informed. Dr. Garcia stated that the Administration takes communication very seriously and is working on improving in that area.</p> <p>Ms. Porter asked Dr. Garcia to provide the Board with a meeting summary each time he meets with Dr. Connie Smith, Director of Accountability, with the Tennessee Department of Education. Dr. Garcia said that he would provide the Board with a summary of all meetings and give a summary at the Board meetings. Mr. Glover stated that it is imperative that the Board stay informed on the district's status. We may want to look at the policy to give the Administration a clear expectation of what the Board would like to see. It will be helpful to have a regular reporting. Mr. Thompson stated that he plans to ask for the Board to consider creating an Accountability Committee. If the Board is willing to create this committee, the Board should ask Dr. Smith to come and report to the Board on a monthly basis. Ms. Warden said that Dr. Smith has already said she would come back and report to the Board whenever she is requested to do so. Mr. Glover asked Ms. Warden to consult Dr. Smith concerning this issue and report back to the Board.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Monitoring Report – EE-14 – District Calendar 	<p>Ms. Tinnon presented a Power Point on the Monitoring Report EE-14 –District Calendar. The policy reads: The Director shall not fail to recommend a district calendar for the school year that provides for the number of instructional and student contact hours and days determined by the Board and that best meets the instructional needs of students. The Administration reported to be in compliance with EE-14-District Calendar. The Administration provided the Board with a rolling two-year calendar (2008-2009 and 2009-2010) that meets all of the requirements specified in EE 14.1. The calendars themselves are preceded by a summary document that outlines the number of days per semester, number of days per year, specific in-service days, planning days, and holidays. The Calendar Committee, that included Administration, MNEA, and a representative from SEIU and Steelworkers, reached unanimous agreement on the 2008-2009 calendar and the proposed 2009-2010 calendar. An invitation was extended for a representative from the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). However, the representative was unable to attend. No changes are recommended for the 2008-2009 calendar. The Administration and MNEA unanimously recommend that the Board adopt the calendar for 2009-2010.</p> <p>Ms. Warden asked what is the rationale for returning to half-days at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year? Ms. Tinnon stated that we looked at the start of the 2007-2008 school year and considered the number of half-days taken due to extreme temperatures, as well as the issues with student schedules. There are no</p>	

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – EE-14 – District Calendar - continued 	<p>recommendations for half days in the 2008-09 calendar because the calendar had already been approved and highly publicized.</p> <p>Ms. Porter made a motion to accept the 2009-2010 school year calendar. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: 8-0- Unanimous (Mr. Thompson out of room)</p>
BOARD DEVELOPMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLAN China Presentation 	<p>Several MNPS Principals and staff visited Guangzhou, China. They had the opportunity to visit several schools in the Chinese educational system. One aspect of the Chinese education system the team observed was the implementation of career and technical schools as part of their curriculum. The use of career and technical schools was both a required program and a career choice. In each situation, the development of the career and technical programs was based on: identified area of social need, projected areas of employment and economic growth, environmental circumstances, and political influence. It was evident during the visits that a great deal of time was spent assessing not only the educational needs of the students, but also the future needs of business and industry as well as the needs of society. Visits to the career and technical schools were very relevant to current trends in the MNPS district as we move toward career academies. The governing body of Guangzhou's education system recognized that in order for society to prosper and grow, a quality educational system was needed. This foundational principle was evident in the programs offered and was in keeping with their desire to increase competition and commerce within their society. The team presented the Board with a scroll and also a trophy given to the group from the Guangzhou school system.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson asked how many students did the Chinese have in a classroom, and if there were many discipline issues? Dr. Changas said there were a minimum of 40-60 students in each classroom. No, there were not many discipline issues. Ms. Warden asked how long the school day is. Dr. Changas said 8:30-5:30, with a two-hour break. The Board thanked the group for their presentation.</p>	

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Hearing – Student Assignment Plan 	<p>Ms. Warden stated that a Public Hearing on the proposed Student Assignment Plan is tentatively scheduled for November 15. She asked the Board to check their schedules and report availability to Ms. Hawkins. She also announced the following community meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ October 25 at Hillwood – 6:30 pm ○ October 29 at Madison School – 6:00 pm ○ October 30 at Stratford High School – 6:00 pm ○ November 1 at Napier – 6:00 pm ○ November 5 at John Early – 6:00 pm ○ November 6 at Bass Middle – 6:30 pm ○ November 8 at Brick Church Middle – 6:30 pm ○ November 12 at Maplewood High School – 6:00 pm 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter School Committee Update 	<p>Ms. Porter stated that the committee is reviewing each application and will be visiting Smithson-Craighead on October 25; this is a requirement for a school that is applying for continuation. On November 13, the Charter School Committee will report their recommendations to the Board. On November 27, the Charter School Committee will report their final recommendations.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber of Commerce Orientation for Metro Council members 	<p>On November 6 from 3:00pm-5:00 p.m., the Chamber of Commerce will hold an orientation at the Regions Financial Center for Metro Council members.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel Discussion 	<p>Mr. Kindall announced that he would be participating in a panel discussion held at the Frist Center on October 30 at 3:00 pm. The subject of discussion will be Desegregation, Re-segregation and Immigration in MNPS.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety in our Schools and Neighborhoods Forum 	<p>Ms. Johnson announced the “Safety in our Schools and Neighborhoods Forum” that will be held October 30 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Antioch High School. Discussion will focus on safety and youth incidents that include graffiti, gangs, and criminal activity, in and around our schools and neighborhoods.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chadwell Elementary 	<p>Mr. North announced that Chadwell Elementary would be celebrating their 50th anniversary on November 13 at 6:15 p.m. The festivities will include a living history museum where students will be reporting on characters from the 1950’s to present.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amqui Elementary 	<p>Mr. North announced that Amqui Elementary students and staff are planning a 60th birthday party for their school, and all former teachers, staff and students are invited. The Madison area school, located at 319 Anderson Lane, will be hosting a 60th Anniversary Open House on Friday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.</p>	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Calendar Items 		

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
• Board Meeting Evaluation		
• Sales Tax Collections as of 10/20/07		
• Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget Financial Report		
ADJOURNMENT		
• Debriefing/Adjournment	Mr. Fox made the motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.	
• Signatures	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 200px;"/> Chris M. Henson Board Secretary </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 200px;"/> Marsha Hagan Warden Board Chair </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Date </div> </div>	