

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
November 27, 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 5:04 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge of Allegiance 	Led by Vic Lineweaver, Metropolitan Nashville Juvenile Court Clerk.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Showcase – Jere Baxter Middle School Student Video 	<p>Panasonic sponsors a program called Kid Witness News that involves over 200 schools across the country and over 500 schools around the world. Students create videos in a variety of different categories. The videos are judged by graduate film students from Cornell University. The graduate students select the top three finalists, then industry professionals choose the winner for each category. The winners from each category compete for the Best Video in the United States. Jere Baxter Middle School won five of the fourteen awards in the following categories: Sound, Video, Public Service Announcement, Online Voting Award and Best Video in the United States. Mr. Frey, teacher at Jere Baxter, presented Jere Baxter's winning video in the category of Public Service Announcement that won the students a trip to Japan. Mr. Kindall asked Mr. Frey to bring the other students involved in the program to a future Board meeting so that the Board could acknowledge those students also. Mr. Frey said that it would be his pleasure.</p>	
LINKAGE SESSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juvenile Court Office 	<p>Judge Green, Referee O'Neil, Referee Calhoun, Mr. Campbell, Bob Ross and other staff members from the Juvenile Court Office addressed the Board on how relationships between MNPS and Juvenile Court could improve to help children. Judge Green stated that the Juvenile Court strongly believes that the best way to address youth crime and violence is through education. Children who are involved and connected in their school do not show up in Juvenile Court. We have an opportunity to work together to address this issue if we make this a priority for all of us. I propose beginning this at the K-8 grade level. Mr. Ross said the computerized system that keeps up with attendance of children has some accuracy issues. Unless that problem is repaired, the Juvenile system cannot effectively keep up with truancy. Ms. Warden asked if the new addition of attendance officers in MNPS schools has been beneficial. Referee O'Neil said that it is helpful, but keeping up with children is just a challenge. The accuracy of the record keeping of children's attendance is very important to ensure children are attending school. There are statutes available to us that allow MNPS, Metro Police Department and the Juvenile Court system to enter into an operational agreement that allows for an even earlier intervention of children not attending school. We have not taken advantage of the statute in Nashville, but it is</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juvenile Court Office - continued 	<p>available to us. Ms. Porter asked are parents held responsible when children do not attend school or commit a crime? Judge Green said if it is an older child we hold the child responsible, and it is a truancy issue. With younger children we treat it as educational neglect, and the parent is held accountable. Mr. Kindall asked how do you think MNPS does with handling issues before they are sent to Juvenile Court. Judge Green said concerning issues such as fighting, the more issues the school can handle without referring them to Juvenile, the better the school's morale. We need to look at ways to create more alternative educational settings for students who are disruptive that do not learn the way other students learn. Some of those students are extremely intelligent. Ms. Johnson asked what can we do to channel in a better direction the children that are being disruptive. Judge Green said Guidance Counselors can help steer children and parents in the direction of services that may be beneficial to the family. Mr. Thompson asked what can MNPS do concerning children's glorified mentality of criminal acts, drugs, etc. Judge Green stated that she believes children are seeking attention and acceptance. We need to get children connected in the school process. Children need to feel they are a part of something at school. Mr. North asked how often do you remove children from homes for truancy issues? Referee O'Neil said weekly. Mr. North asked the Juvenile Court staff if Ralph Thompson could be made aware of which schools are having issues concerning reporting attendance, etc? Judge Green said schools are doing a better job. But, we must begin to catch these issues at an earlier age. Mr. Glover asked that the Administration address the problems concerning entering student attendance to help accurately keep up with attendance. Mr. Kindall said he would like to continue to have a joint effort between MNPS and the Juvenile Court where issues are discussed in order to help make the children's lives better. We need to look at the overall picture to help children believe that they can succeed and make it in life. Judge Green said she believes the schools, MNPS, Metropolitan Police Department, Metropolitan Health Department, and the Department of Children's Services all have to work together to make stopping youth violence a priority. Ms. Warden said we are creating a program called Parent University and asked if the Juvenile Court system would like to be involved in this program. Judge Green said yes. Ms. Johnson said children with natural abilities to excel in athletics do not end up in the Juvenile Court system. But what about the children who may have the desire to play sports but do not have those abilities? What are their choices? We must begin to offer more programs to keep those children engaged in school. Mr. O'Neil said there is a need for pro-social programs in Alternative Schools so that students can get the skills needed to get back to regular school. Ms. Porter said we need to continue to form a closer relationship</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juvenile Court Clerk Office - 		

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continued	with the Juvenile Court system. All programs require funding, and it is up to us as a community to decide to use those dollars toward preventive methods. Judge Green invited the Board to come review the truancy docket. I thank you for your support in helping children that are in the Juvenile Detention Center. Those students do not miss any work thanks to your support. Mr. Kindall asked if the state statute concerning home school can be modified to help with truancy. Judge Green said yes it can be modified, but there are legitimate home schools. However, some parents have used it as an escape module for parents who do not want to monitor their children's school attendance. Mr. Kindall said we must do something concerning safety in our schools, and we can begin by working with the Juvenile Court system to create safer schools. Ms. Warden said we also believe that youth education is the best prevention to deal with juvenile crime. It will take all of us working together to help our at-risk students. The Board thanked the Juvenile Court system for their feedback and suggestions.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break 	The Board took a break from 6:28 p.m. - 6:57 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Glover Motion 	<p>Mr. Glover said as noted at our work session, we are entering a critical time period as the Administration begins to build the first draft of the 2008-2009 Metro Schools budget. I suggest to my Board colleagues that we provide crystal-clear instructions to the Director about the elements we expect to see in the budget draft that he will provide to us. Therefore, I have the following motions for consideration: 1. The Director will not include any funds in the budget for single-gender or fundamental schools. Rationale: As noted by the State's Director of Accountability, these concepts are not backed by research and will not help us improve our Corrective Action status. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p> <p>Mr. Kindall said that he believes the Board may be setting a bad precedent by telling the Administration what not to bring to the Board. I think the Administration has the right to bring recommendations to the Board with accurate research, and the Board can decide not to include it in the budget. Ms. Porter stated that the Board does not want to get into micro-managing and would like to first see what the Director is presenting, and then vote it up or down.</p> <p>2. The Director will include all the necessary funds in the budget to fund each of the recommendations from the State to assist the District's schools in Corrective Action status. Rationale: It is the legal responsibility of the Board to cooperate</p>	<p>VOTE: For (5): Fox, Johnson, Warden, North, Glover. Against (3): Porter, Kindall, Brannon. (Mr. Thompson was out of the room)</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous (Mr. Thompson was out of the</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Glover Motion - continued 	<p>with the State in every way to improve the District's Corrective Action status. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p> <p>3. The Director will include significant funds in the budget to fund timely and research-based methods, programs and staffing to increase student performance in math. Rationale: As pointed out by the State's Director of Accountability, student performance in math must be improved to remove the District from Corrective Action status. Ms. Porter seconded.</p> <p>4. The Director will include significant funds in the budget to fund timely and research-based methods, programs and staffing to increase student performance in those subgroups which are not currently making Adequate Yearly Progress. Rationale: Student performance in these subgroups must be improved to remove the District from Corrective Action status. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p> <p>5. The Director will include the necessary funds in the budget to fully support the implementation of Small Learning Communities in the District's high schools. Rationale: As pointed out by the State's Director of Accountability, SLC's are a research-based and proven step to improving student performance in high schools and increasing the graduation rate – two areas which must be improved to remove the District from Corrective Action status. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p>	<p>room)</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous (Mr. Thompson was out of the room)</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous (Mr. Thompson was out of the room)</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous (Mr. Thompson was out of the room)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Johnson – Community Task Force for Student Assignment Proposal 	<p>Ms. Johnson gave notice to the Board that she would bring the following proposal to set up a Community Task for Student Assignment Plan at the December 11 Board meeting: At the recent conference of the Council of the Great City Schools, one of the workshops was focused on a successful model for drawing student attendance zones for schools in Austin, Texas. I would like to propose that we create our Community Task Force to follow the Austin model: 1. The Task Force would become a standing committee that would work on student assignment issues as required and as directed by the Board. 2. Each Board member would appoint one person to the Task Force. That person's term on the Task Force would coincide with the term of the Board member who appointed him or her. In addition, the Schools Director would appoint one person as an Administration Liaison, the Mayor would appoint one person as a</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Johnson – Community Task Force for Student Assignment Proposal - continued 	<p>Mayor’s liaison and the School Board Chair would appoint one person as the Board liaison. 3. The members of the Task Force would participate in an orientation workshop presented by the Administration on concepts of capacity and utilization and on demographic information about the district and about the geographic area/s under consideration. 4. The Task Force would be responsible for: A. Periodically reviewing capacity parameters to ensure efficient building utilization. B. Recommending specific proposals for more efficient use of under-utilized facilities. C. Designing student assignment recommendations that meet the needs of the district with as minimal an impact on student as possible. 5. The general sequence of the Task Force’s work would be: A. Work with MNPS administrators and Metro City Departments such as the Planning Commission to develop tentative proposals for any new schools or revised attendance boundaries. B. Involve parents, staff and community members of each affected school to serve as ad hoc members. These ad hoc members would provide feedback and/or suggested modification to the draft proposal. C. Revise draft proposals based on comments and suggestions from ad hoc members and the Administration. D. Co-host a public hearing in cooperation with the School Board to hear comments and/or suggestions from the public. E. Make any revisions to the proposals based on comments and suggestions from the public. F. Present recommendations to the School Board for action. 6. This model requires: Team-building and clarification of district-wide needs and interests early in the process, timely and accurate demographic and development data, effective facilitation of the group process when the Task Force is in session, and sufficient resources for the Task Force to implement the process effectively. 7. Initially, the Task Force would be convened as quickly as possible in January 2008 with the goal of making recommendations to the School Board in April for the 2009-2010 school year. As a recommendation, in the future, the procedure could begin in August or September, with the goal of making recommendations to the School Board in three to six months for the following school year.</p> <p>Mr. Kindall said at the last meeting we asked Dr. Garcia to consider creating a Task Force. I suggest we give this model to the Administration for review. I do not think the Board should be setting up a Task Force and giving a charge to the Task Force. Mr. Thompson said certainly any Board member has the right to put forth any motion that they deem relevant to any issue. Ms. Warden said that forming a Task Force has been something that has been discussed at length, and I think the model that they used in Austin appears to be a good independent model. Ms. Porter said I applaud Ms. Johnson for this proposal, but I would like for us to look at other models such as Wake</p>	

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	County, in North Carolina, and search out others around the country that could possibly be of some help.	
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 – 11/13/2007 Regular Meeting; III-A-2-b Recommended Award of Contract – Energy Consultant For Apollo Middle School Addition – Energy Systems, Inc. – MBOE-07-046; III-A-2-c Extension Of Contract For Design And Construction Management Services – Heery International, Inc. L-1674 (Control No. A-20895); III-A-2-d Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Bright Sky Learning, LLC, (2.) AlphaBEST Education, Inc., (3.) Cool Kids Learn, Inc., (4.) ATS Educational Consulting Services – Project Success, (5.) A to Z In-Home Tutoring, (6.) Kastle Instructional Recovery, LLC, (7.) Education Station, LLC – A Division of KLC School Partnerships, (8.) Martha O’Bryan Center, Inc., (9.) Boys and Girls Clubs of Tennessee/The Positive Place for Kids, (10.) Knowledge Points of Middle Tennessee, (11.) Educational Communications, Inc./The Learning Zone, (12.) The Minvera Group, LLC d/b/a Huntington Learning Center, (13.) Greenlight for Learning, LLC, (14.) Sage Leadership Partners, Inc.; III-A-2-e Approval of Policy Change EE – 17 Charter Schools; III-A-2-f Approval of Policy Change GP – 2.8 Governing Style; III-A-2-g Approval of Policy Change E -1 Mission Statement; III-A-2-h Approval of Monitoring Report – E-2.6 ACT/SAT/PSAT/College Entrance; III-A-2-i Approval of Monitoring Report – EE-10 Communication with Board; III-A-2-j Approval of Monitoring Report – EE-14 District Calendar; III-A-2-k Approval of Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committees for 2007-08; III-A-2-l - 2007-14 Strategic Plan. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson asked that the following changes be made to the 11/13/07 Board minutes: Under the heading of Cassidy Starks- Extraordinary Teens, it was noted that Mary Kate Mouser with the Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital should be corrected to Mary Beth Davis with the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation.</p> <p>Dr. Brannon asked that under Announcements –Effective Teacher Conference on page 218 of the 11/13/07 minutes, the following changes be made: preliminary plans in place to recruit and train teachers be changed to preliminary plans in place to recruit and retain teachers. She also asked that the following component be added,</p>	<p>VOTE: For–9-0 Unanimous</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Agenda - continued 	<p>“especially placing the most effective and highly qualified teacher in the school where children need these teachers the most.”</p> <p>Mr. Thompson asked about the consent agenda items III-A-d-1-12 Awarding of Bids and Contracts. Why is there such a disparity of cost per hour for those services? Ms. Warden stated that the hourly rates are set by the State Department of Education.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Monitoring Report – EE-17 – Charter Schools 	<p>Mr. Wright presented a Power Point on EE-17 Charter School to the Board. EE-17 Charter Schools reads: With respect to charter school applications and monitoring of existing charter schools, the Director shall not allow contracts to be recommended or continued if fiscal jeopardy or failure to make consistent progress towards their stated objectives is a likely outcome or is evident. In addition, the Director shall not allow existing charter schools to operate in a manner that would jeopardize the learning or well being of their students. The Administration reported to be In Compliance with EE-17 Charter Schools. Mr. Wright reviewed the current Charter School application process. Three Charter School applications were received on October 1, 2007, and all applications were date and time stamped by the Board Administrator. The Charter School Application Review Committee held standing meetings during the time period of October 1 and November 13. The State Rubric was used to assess completeness of application and for the purpose of review. Recommendations were made to the Board on November 13. Two applicants will re-submit the application based on the information included in the denial letter. The Administration, under advisement and in cooperation with Metro Legal, created a standard Charter School Contract. LEAD Academy is the only school required to sign a contract this year. Smithson-Craighead Academy (SCA) was renewed by the Board during the November 13 meeting and has notified the business office. All students have been verified as eligible under TCA 49-13-113, and KIPP and SCA contract food services through the MNPS Food Service Department. LEAD does not contract food services. KIPP exceeded state AYP proficiency targets (77% Math and 82% Reading) in 2007 for all students and for its two subgroups with 45 or more students, African American and Economically Disadvantaged. SCA fell just short of these AYP targets, but was within 2% in Math and 1% in Reading for all students. Under NCLB, schools can make AYP by being within a narrow confidence interval around the target. All students and the African American and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups made AYP utilizing the confidence band. It should be noted that even without this confidence interval, SCA would have made AYP for all subgroups through Safe Harbor, due to the significant improvement in proficiency in 2007 for all subgroups.</p>	<p>Follow-up: Ms. Warden asked how many students are enrolled at KIPP Academy? Ms. Porter asked what percentage of the student’s enrolled at KIPP Academy are African-American? Mr. Henson said the Administration would provide that information to the Board.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – EE-17 – Charter Schools - continued 	<p>Ms. Warden asked how many students are enrolled at KIPP Academy? Ms. Porter asked what percentage of the students enrolled at KIPP Academy are African-American? Mr. Henson said the Administration would provide that information to the Board.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Monitoring Report – E-2.9 – Graduation Rate 	<p>Mr. Wright reported that the Administration was In Compliance with E-2.9 Graduation Rate. Dr. Changas had made the presentation on E-2.9 at the previous Board meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Warden asked if students taking credit recovery classes still have to take end of course exam tests, etc. Mr. Wright said students still have to earn the credits and take the end of course test. Mr. Glover said he would like to see the comparisons of the equity of Guidance Counselors, especially in the ninth grade, across the district per school and the average number of students that a freshman guidance counselor serves. Mr. Wright said he would bring that information back to the Board.</p>	<p>Follow-up: Mr. Glover said he would like to see the comparisons of the equity of Guidance Counselors, especially in the ninth grade, across the district per school and the average number of students that a freshman guidance counselor serves. Mr. Wright said he would bring that information back to the Board.</p>
BOARD DEVELOPMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior Specialists 	<p>MNPS Behavior Specialists presented a Power Point to the Board. The Behavior Specialists' mission statement is to support children, teachers, and families as we work together to ensure that every child learns and develops to their fullest potential in a safe and nurturing environment. These Behavior Specialists use the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS), which is a systematic approach to managing behaviors in schools. It teaches behavioral expectations associated with school-wide rules, develops an array of procedures for addressing violations to school-wide behavioral expectations, and designs environments for smooth transition and routines. The following schools have Behavior Specialists: Antioch Middle School, Cohn Alternative Learning Center, Hattie Cotton Elementary School, Jere Baxter Middle School, Baxter Alternative Learning Center, Brick Church Middle School, Dalewood Middle School, and Kirkpatrick Elementary School. Some of the Behavior Specialists' goals are to improve social skills and behaviors in students and in schools, decrease the number of office referrals, increase opportunities for academic achievement in all students, and decrease the drop-out rate. Some of their primary responsibilities are to collaborate with teachers to improve classroom management techniques, work with individual students and families on behavioral goals (home visits), and observe multiple schools and settings. Some of the ongoing projects mentioned were: continuing assessment monitoring, building positive relationships, home visits, and increasing involvement in district initiatives.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior Specialists - continued 	<p>Ms. Warden asked if there was a process of choosing the schools that would have Behavior Specialists? Mr. Ralph Thompson stated that we look at data, principals who felt they could get staff support, etc. Ms. Johnson asked if anyone accompanied a Behavior Specialist for a home visit? Mr. Ralph Thompson said we do not make a home visit without contacting Student Services and security in that area. We have also considered having a police officer accompany us to the visit. We also let Student Services know when we leave the home visit. Ms. Porter said home visits can be very beneficial to establishing a relationship with parents, and it is very comforting to know that you are continuing this effort. Mr. George Thompson said he is concerned about the visible presence of a Metro Police officer in uniform and the impact that it could have. Mr. Ralph Thompson said it can bring about other issues, but it is necessary in certain areas. It is a very non- threatening procedure and, generally speaking, once a relationship is established, things relax considerably. There are ministers and other people in the community that have expressed an interest in helping with home visits, etc. Mr. Glover asked if there have been problems hiring additional Behavior Specialists? Mr. Ralph Thompson said there is funding available for six Behavior Specialists, and we now have four in place. We are in the process of getting the other two positions filled. Mr. Glover asked if data could be brought back to the Board concerning what the Behavior Specialists have accomplished. I am all about keeping kids in school, and if this is one of the ways we can accomplish that need, I am in full support. Mr. Ralph Thompson said yes.</p>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Committee Meeting 	<p>Ms. Warden stated that the Finance Committee had its first meeting. She asked Board members to please fill out their Budget Priority lists and turn them into the Board Administrator by Friday, December 7 at noon. There will be a Finance Committee Meeting in the Media Room at the Mayor's Office at 4:00 p.m. on December 10.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor's Quarterly Meeting 	<p>Ms. Warden announced that December 10 at 5:00 p.m., the Board will be meeting with Mayor Dean for the Mayor's Quarterly Meeting.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia Green Student 	<p>On behalf of the Board, Mr. Fox expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of Max Nance, a Julia Green student who died in a car accident. The funeral arrangements are as follows: Memorial Service, West United Methodist Church on November 28.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Board Members 	<p>Mr. Thompson expressed his concern for the absence of student Board members. Ms. Warden stated that Inter High is in the process of selecting new student Board members, and the officers should be filled by January.</p>	

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WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
• Board Calendar Items		
• Board Meeting Evaluation		
• Sales Tax Collections as of 11/20/07		
• Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget Financial Report		
ADJOURNMENT		
• Debriefing/Adjournment	Mr. Fox made the motion to adjourn at 8:17 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;"> <hr style="width: 100px;"/> Date </div> </div>	