

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
October 25, 2011

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
• Roll Call	Members Present: Gracie Porter, Chair; Mark North, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; Michael Hayes; Ed Kindall; Cheryl D. Mayes; Anna Shepherd; Kay Simmons Members Absent: Dr. Sharon Gentry and Jhamia Poole, Student Board Member Ms. Porter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.	
• Pledge of Allegiance	Chairwoman Porter asked a member of the media to lead the Pledge.	
• Recognition of Special Guests	Ms. Henderson spoke to the Board concerning the new Egyptian exhibit at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. She thanked MNPS for their continued support, and invited the community to visit the new exhibit and other programs offered at the Frist.	
1. Anne Henderson, Frist Center for the Arts		
2. Educational Leadership Learning Exchange Visitors from China	Tom Ward introduced the Educational Leadership Learning Exchange delegation from Guangzhou, China.	
3. Charles H. Tucker Retirement	Ms. Porter recognized Charles Tucker, who is retiring from MNPS after 40 years of service. She thanked Mr. Tucker for his hard work for MNPS.	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
1. ACTIONS Consent Agenda	Ms. Mayes read the following consent agenda items: II-A-1-a- Approval of Minutes-10/11/2011 Regular Meeting; II-A-1-b- Recommended Award of Contract for Architectural Services for Renovation of the Library at Hillwood High School – Hastings Architecture Associates, LLC; II-A-1-c- Change Order #1 for ADA Improvements at J.T. Moore Middle School – Edwards Construction, Inc. – M-443; II-A-1-d- Supplement #2 for Haywood Elementary School Additions-Gilbert McLaughlin Casella Architects, PLC – L-2274; II-A-1-e- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Noser Consulting, LLC, (2.) Reasoning Mind, Inc., (3.) American Alliance for Innovative Schools, LLC, (4.) LEAD Prep Southeast Nonprofit LLC; II-A-1-f- Recommended Approval of Requests for Compulsory Attendance Waiver; II-A-1-g- Recommended Approval of Tennessee Department of Education LEA Compliance Report; II-A-1-h- Recommended Approval of CTE, Fine Arts, and Literature Textbook Adoption Committees. Ms. Shepherd made the motion to accept the consent agenda as read. Dr. Brannon seconded.	VOTE: 8-0

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Consent Agenda - continued	Mr. Kindall asked if the Board could receive a report on the evaluation of the contracted companies? Dr. Register said, yes, that information can be provided at the Board's request.	Evaluations of Contracted Companies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended Approval of Resolution Opposing Vouchers to Fund Private School Tuition 	<p>Mr. North made a motion to approve the following resolution Opposing Vouchers to Fund Private School Tuition.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, there is pending legislation before the Tennessee General Assembly that would create a voucher program allowing students to use public education funds to pay for private school tuition; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers remain controversial and unpopular with no proven benefit to student performance; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee requires that the Tennessee General Assembly “provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free <i>public</i> schools”, with no mention of the maintenance or support of private schools; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers eliminate public accountability by channeling tax dollars into private schools that do not face state-approved academic standards, do not make budgets public, do not adhere to open meetings and records laws, do not publicly report on student achievement, and do not face the public accountability requirements contained in major federal laws, including laws that protect students with special needs; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers channel public dollars into private schools that may deny admission to students for arbitrary and unstated reasons; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers have not been effective at improving student achievement or closing the achievement gap, with the most credible research finding little or no difference in voucher and public school students’ performance; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers leave many students behind, including those with the greatest needs because private schools are not required to accept them or do not offer the special services they need; and at the same time drain funding from the public schools; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers give choices to private schools, not students and parents, since private schools decide how many and which students they admit, and they potentially may use arbitrary reasons for denying admission or for subsequently dismissing a student; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, vouchers attempt to duplicate the school choice options</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended Approval of Resolution Opposing Vouchers to Fund Private School Tuition - continued 	<p>already available to low income students under the federal No Child Left Behind law without that law's accountability; and WHEREAS, voucher programs divert critical dollars and commitment from public schools to pay private school tuition for a few students, including many who already attend private schools; and WHEREAS, a dollar spent on a tuition voucher is a dollar drained from public education; and WHEREAS, in Davidson County about one-third of school funding is from the State yet proposed legislation requires vouchers for half the per pupil expenditures creating a funding drain with a greater negative impact on Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools than on most other districts; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS: The Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education opposes this legislation or other similar efforts to create a voucher program in Tennessee that would divert money intended for public schools to private schools. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution should be delivered to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker of the House and every member of the General Assembly. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is to take effect on October 25, 2011, the public welfare requiring it. Ms. Shepherd seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Simmons asked why is the General Assembly considering this new law? Mr. Kindall said he has not heard any arguments stating the benefits of vouchers. Ms. Porter said one argument for vouchers contends that vouchers would offer parents more choices, but she is concerned that the law only includes five school districts (Nashville, Hamilton, Knox, and Memphis/Shelby) in Tennessee. Mr. Kindall said he doesn't believe that there are any private schools in Tennessee that would offer more student resources than offered in MNPS. Mr. Hayes said, after reading the law, he felt that the law was very loose and expressed disappointment that no one from the legislature contacted the Board to explain the origin of the proposed law.</p> <p>Mr. Kindall called the question.</p>	<p>VOTE: 8-0</p>
REPORTS		
2. Director's Report	Chris Weber, Director of Student Assignment Services, presented the Fall	

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1. Fall School Selection Process	<p>School Selection Process to the Board.</p> <p>Ms. Simmons asked if the survey had been crafted? Mr. Weber said Stand for Children will be developing the survey. Mr. Kindall asked if the Student Assignment Services Department was working with the Transportation Department to ensure parents know their transportation options? Mr. Weber said that every February zoned-option letters are distributed, which include transportation information. Also, students who are changing schools because of tier levels are notified of their transportation options. Ms. Porter asked how do magnet school parents know in which cluster the school resides? Mr. Weber said most use the cluster in which the school is located. Ms. Mayes asked if the fall application had been tested for user friendliness? Mr. Weber said during the development, we did involve parent input. Ms. Mayes asked if the online Fall Application process will be available in other languages? Dr. Register said the paper application is available in five languages. Olivia Brown said she is not certain that the online application will be available in other languages, but that option will be researched. Ms. Simmons asked how is it determined which language should go to which student? Ms. Brown said upon enrollment, each student indicates his/her language preference. Each school receives letters in the language(s) previously denoted. Dr. Brannon asked which schools would be excluded from the on-line application? Mr. Weber said Meigs, Hume-Fogg, MLK, NSA, Big Picture, and Middle College.</p>	
2. Balanced Calendar Planning Update	<p>Tony Majors presented a report to the Board on the Balanced Calendar Planning process.</p> <p>Ms. Simmons asked if the Adventure Science Center had been contacted for partnership? Mr. Majors said yes. Ms. Simmons asked will teachers be given the opportunity to provide enrichment for students? Mr. Majors said yes. Ms. Porter asked if any universities expressed interest in conducting student ACT/SAT training? Mr. Majors said, yes, the universities offer to send their own staff to work with students during intersession and, also, offered teacher training. Ms. Mayes said, she is excited about Hands on Nashville offering the opportunity to volunteer during intersession. Ms. Shepherd asked has there been thought around requiring intersession for struggling students? Mr. Majors said, in the initial stage, we believe making intersession mandatory may overwhelm the effectiveness of intersession. Ms. Shepherd stated she believed it would be beneficial for parent liaisons to be used to help encourage</p>	


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2. Balanced Calendar Planning Update - Continued	parents to ensure students attend intersession. Mr. Majors said next school year we will develop a team of people that will work on ensuring the community has necessary information on intersession.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Chairman's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CUBE Annual Conference 	<p>Ms. Porter made the following report of her trip to the CUBE Annual Conference: The Steering Committee was called to order by President Sandra Jensen. The summary evaluation and the CUBE's Issues Seminar Steering Committee Business Meeting notes were shared from the Memphis meeting held on June 23, 2011. After committee reports were given, the full conference began with an information-filled leadership training workshop on the "Characteristics of Effective School Boards on Urban School Governance." On Friday, October 7th, chaired by yours truly, we began the day with a mound of information about the schools we were to visit. After the presentations from school Board member Cynthia Cade, representing the Orleans Parish (LA) Public Schools, and Karen Herndorn, Director of Accountability from the Jefferson Parish (LA) Public School System, we were privileged to tour one of the schools of choice. We toured Mary Bethune Elementary Literature/Technology Elementary, Eleanor Laura McMain Secondary School, and Ralph J. Bunche Academy for High School Preparation. Great discussion followed the school site visits to Orleans Parish Schools and Jefferson Parish Schools on achievement, and after Hurricane Katrina. The highlight of the conference was Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, since 1992. His dynamic presentation was second to none, while he challenged the audience on the importance of not allowing students to use excuses for low performance in the classroom. Other highlights of the conference consisted of the annual CUBE Award that was awarded to the Mesquite, TX Independent School District. The second place winner stated that they use many of the best practices from the Metropolitan Nashville Public School System. The conference ended on a high note with a report on Federal Legislative Update, given by Reginald Felton, Assistant Executive Director of Congressional Relations, NSBA Office of Federal Advocacy & Public Policy. Other topics discussed were school finance in the midst of drastic budget cuts, and national and state legislators across the nation. We ended the conference with a stunning presentation from Molly A. Hunter, Director, Education Justice, Education Law Center, Newark, N.J., a nationally recognized expert on issues of school funding litigation and reform. As director of the ELC's Education Justice Program, she shared how they offer technical assistance to a nationwide network of education advocates for</p>	

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1. CUBE Annual Conference – continued	improved federal education policies, analyze and disseminate information on research and policies, and convene conferences and meetings to promote equal educational opportunity. In our final Steering Committee meeting, great interest was expressed on holding the 2013 CUBE Conference in Nashville. My response was I felt that we would make their visit worthwhile and would be as accommodating as possible. With the help of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and the Nashville Convention Bureau, I felt confident that we can make it happen.	
• Board Meeting Schedule Change	Ms. Porter announced that from January–June of 2012, the Board would be holding one Board meeting and one Board work session a month.	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
• McGavock High School Marching Band	Ms. Shepherd congratulated the McGavock High School Marching band for being named Reserve Grand Champion at the State Championship.	
• Music Makes Us	Ms. Shepherd congratulated supporters of Music Makes Us. She stated that she is truly excited about the programs and expects great things to come from the effort.	
• Principal for a Day	Ms. Mayes announced that she will serve as Principal for a Day at The Academy at Hickory Hollow on October 26, 2011.	
• Antioch High School Football Team	Ms. Mayes congratulated the Antioch High School Bears for winning the football district championship in their win over Overton.	
• 37013 Bowl	Ms. Mayes announced the 37013 Bowl to be held at Antioch High School on October 27 th .	
• Academy of Nashville VIP Tour at Stratford High School	Ms. Porter thanked for all the support shown at Stratford High School’s Academy of Nashville’s VIP Tour.	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
• Sales Tax Collections as of October 20, 2011		
• Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget Financial Reports		
• Board Calendar Items		
• Adjournment	Ms. Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">Signatures	<div> Chris M. Henson Board Secretary</div> <div><div>Gracie Porter Board Chair</div><div>Date</div></div>	