

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 10, 2009

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/MOTION | FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME |
|--|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call | <p>Members Present: David A. Fox, Chair; Gracie Porter, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; Alan Coverstone; Dr. Sharon Gentry; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Ed Kindall; Mark North</p> <p>Members Absent: Brittany McShand and Sierra Scivally, Student Board Members</p> <p>Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge of Allegiance | Led by Jim Briggs, Associate Superintendent for High Schools. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Showcase – KIPP Academy | Students from the KIPP Academy-Nashville choir performed two musical selections for the Board and audience. | |
| AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Berry – Professional Development Workshop in Russia | Dr. Berry is a former teacher of biology, chemistry, and AP environmental science and is currently a Peer Assistance Leader (PALS). In 2006, Dr. Berry was recognized as a participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. The Japanese government hosted a three-week visit to Japan where she had the opportunity to immerse herself in the Japanese culture and educational system. In July 2007, the Board recognized Dr. Berry as one of 17 teachers selected nationally to receive the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship and where she worked in Senator Bernie Sanders' office in Washington, D.C. Tonight, Dr. Berry comes back to be recognized as having been invited by the Embassy of the United States of America to the Russian Federation to lead a professional development workshop in Russia. Dr. Berry traveled to Saratov Oblast in Russia Oct. 17-26, to lead an educational workshop for Russian secondary teachers under the Language, Technology, Math and Science (LTMS) Exchange. Dr. Berry presented a Power Point to the Board detailing her experiences in Russia. | |
| GOVERNANCE ISSUES | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIONS Consent Agenda | <p>Ms. Porter read the following consent agenda items: V-A-1-a- Approval of Minutes –01/27/09 Regular Board Meeting and 1/30/09 Special Meeting; V-A-1-b – Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Tennessee Department of Education, (2.) Tennessee Department of Education, (3.) Siemens Building Technologies, Inc., (4.) Professional Technical Services, Inc. , (5.) Knowledge Points of Middle Tennessee, (6.) Quantum Learning Technologies, Inc., (7.) Fringe Benefits Management Company, (8.) Beacon Technologies; V-A-1-c- Recommended Approval of Policy Governance Monitoring Calendar; V-A-1-d- Recommended Approval of Ends and Executive Expectations Monitoring Forms; V-A-1-e- Recommended Approval of Reporting Instruction for Administrators;</p> | |

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 10, 2009

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/MOTION | FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent Agenda - continued | V-A-l-f- Recommended Approval of Public Notice Policy; V-A-l-g- Recommended Approval of 2008-2009 Amended Capital Needs Project List; V-A-l-h- Request for Textbook Approval – Avenues. Ms. Johnson moved for approval. Mr. Glover seconded. | VOTE: For–9-0 Unanimous |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Disciplinary Appeal | Mr. Kindall made a motion to affirm the decision of the Administration concerning the Student Disciplinary Appeal. Ms. Porter seconded. | VOTE: For–9-0 Unanimous |
| REPORTS | | |
| <p>Director’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative High School Initiative and Diploma Plus | <p>Mr. Briggs addressed the Board concerning the Alternative High School Initiative and Diploma Plus. The Alternative High School Initiative (AHSI) is a network of youth development organizations with over 250 sites nationwide committed to creating educational opportunities for young people for whom traditional school settings have not been successful. AHSI was launched in 2003 as a response to the growing national trend of diminishing graduation rates. There are five qualities that distinguish AHSI schools: Authentic learning, teaching and performance assessment; Personalized school culture; Shared leadership and responsibility; Supportive partnerships; and Future-focused. AHSI consists of twelve youth development organizations committed to creating educational opportunities for young people for whom traditional school settings have not been successful. MNPS presently has a Big Picture School and is in the planning stages for the Diploma Plus and the Gateway to College models, while investigating the Youth Build program.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson asked where a college office will be set-up for students. Mr. Briggs said the focus would be having partnerships between the colleges and the school in order to provide opportunities to students. An office may not be necessary. Mr. North stated that he believed Diploma Plus will be beneficial to the district because of its focus on bringing students back to school to receive their diploma, but asked if that will be the same focus at all MNPS high schools. Mr. Briggs said he agreed that all high schools should have that focus. Many students are behind in credits but still have a chance to be successful through the credit recovery program. Diploma Plus targets students who do not have enough credits to graduate in a responsible amount of time. Dr. Gentry asked if there was a way to calculate the cost of each model. Mr. Briggs said yes, he believed that most of the models costs could be calculated. Mr. Fox asked for more information on the grants for the Gateway to College program. Ms. Zinkiewicz said the Gateway to College national network has to select sites that they believe are ready to implement the Gateway to College program. This process requires around \$300,000 to</p> | |

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 10, 2009

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/MOTION | FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alternative High School Initiative and Diploma Plus - continued | <p>fund program development during the year, when there are no students present and, therefore, the funding would be for things like staff and professional development. Mr. Fox asked if the district will provide transportation to the schools. Mr. Briggs said no, students will have to provide their own transportation. Mr. North asked if the district was on target to open the schools at the scheduled times. Mr. Briggs said yes. Ms. Porter said she believes the district needs to consider the addition of school guidance counselors throughout the district and not only for the AHSI schools. Mr. Coverstone said the district must monitor successes in order to create them in other schools. Mr. Glover stated that the Board must consider the budget and ensure that the proper positions are preserved. Ms. Johnson asked how parents will be informed of the AHSI schools. Mr. Briggs said each model will have a communication plan. Ms. Johnson asked if transportation for the new models had been discussed with Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). Mr. Briggs said discussions will be held with MTA concerning transportation. Mr. Kindall said he is concerned that the new programs may become stagnant and has concerns about the budget.</p> | |
| <p>Board Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Code of Ethics Committee Appointment | <p>Mr. Fox stated new legislation was passed in 2008 requiring Boards of Education to adopt specific Code of Ethics policies. From this policy, the Board must establish a Code of Ethics Committee. Mr. Fox announced his appointments to the committee: Dr. Brannon, Dr. Gentry, and Mr. North.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal Relations Network Conference | <p>Mr. North announced that he attended the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C. School board members from across the country met to discuss federal issues as they relate to schools. The main topics were the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, general funding and the Stimulus Package.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nondiscrimination Procurement Program Committee | <p>Mr. Horton presented a Power Point concerning the Nondiscrimination Procurement Program Ordinance. Mr. Horton reviewed the Planning and Construction Diversity Business Enterprise Program Utilization Report, current recommendations and results, and recommendations to support a sustainable future for the procurement program.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Horton and the Administration for their hard work and commitment to meeting the goals of the ordinance. Mr. Kindall asked if any effort has been made to initiate conversations between the architects and contractors. Mr. Horton said architects who are selected are encouraged to engage in conversation with the contractors.</p> | |

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 10, 2009

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/MOTION | FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME |
|--|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charter School Working Group ○ Charter School Working Group – continued | <p>The Charter School Working Group has met 4 times with the final working meeting scheduled for February 12 from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. in the Martin Professional Development Center. Carol Swann, Randy Dowell, Jill Pittman, Danielle Mezera, Marc Hill, Inman Otey, Jeremy Kane, Avi Poster, Kecia Ray, and Mr. Coverstone all serve in the working group. Mr. Coverstone reported that the group heard from State officials, Eric Hilgendorf and Rich Haglund; Charter School Advocates Bill DeLoache, John Eason, and Mat Throckmorton; our Nashville Charter School principals, Randy Dowell, Janelle Glover, and Jeremy Kane; District personnel Carol Swann, Tracy Utley, and Denise Gregory; and last week enjoyed a great conversation via phone with Matt Candler, Director of New Schools for New Orleans. The charge has been and continues to be to make recommendations that will guide the development of the charter school office, improve the district procedures for evaluating and approving charter applications, and suggest changes to state law that will improve our ability to use charter schools as a tool in efforts to improve academic achievement in this District. We are in the drafting phase of our final report right now, and I want to share some preliminary findings that will inform our recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nashville has a systemic perception problem with specific school failings. In that environment, charter schools represent a particularly effective tool for focused attention on dramatic improvement. 2. We need a stronger process identifying and bringing to bear all possible resources to address academic choice for students in our failing schools, sooner rather than later. Charter schools align clearly with other efforts already underway in that regard. 3. The district needs a stronger process of strategically identifying the areas in which we are falling short so that we can build an excellent classroom in every school for every child. A strong and highly collaborative charter initiative can build templates for identifying high-yield best practices for academic achievement and disseminating those practices for district-wide improvement. <p>This process has been an incredibly rewarding one. I have been very proud of the district personnel who have been so helpful and incredibly willing to rethink the relationship between the district and charter schools. I have found each week’s discussion full of possibility and opportunity. In particular, it is clear that many of the challenges that the review committee identified as starting points for this work can be addressed with creative thinking. We are, in short, not as hostage to state rules as we have previously believed. Rather, we have the real opportunity to take control of the process so that charter schools play their proper role in increasing quality academic choices for</p> | |

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 10, 2009

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/MOTION | FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charter School Working Group - continued | <p>students and in classrooms where our present range of choices is demonstrably insufficient. Charter schools are public schools. Our district is in corrective action because we have schools that are failing children, and if we recruit the right high quality charter schools, sometimes those schools will meet our particular needs more effectively and flexibly than other alternatives. And when a charter school shows us how to provide excellent education for a child we have failed, everyone in our system must respond to that diversity. Charters are one tool to address that reality. Like Big Picture Schools, Middle College, Magnet Schools, Design Centers, Enhanced Options, Smaller Learning Communities, and so on, the key to success will be making sure that our efforts work in concert to provide excellent education for every child in Nashville. That is the mission of our district, and in pursuit of that mission, we need all hands on deck. We sincerely hope and believe that our report will offer a template for integrating charter schools more fully into district operations so that greater collaboration toward that mission will be realized.</p> | |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Inauguration | <p>Mr. Fox thanked Ted and Mary Beth Helm, of Modular Design, who received two tickets to the Presidential Inauguration from Congressman Jim Cooper. The Helms elected to give their tickets to Quincy Robinson, a student at MLK, and his mother along with paid air fare, rental car, and hotel accommodations to the Presidential Inauguration of President Barack Obama.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt | <p>Mr. Fox announced that the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt is taking applications for the 2009-10 academic year. The school is a joint venture between Vanderbilt University Medical Center and MNPS. All MNPS 8th graders are eligible to apply, and applications are due February 13th. For more information, visit the MNPS website or call 615-322-7132.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Meetings | <p>Mr. Coverstone thanked Dr. Register for holding community meetings around the city and urged the community to attend the meetings.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNPS Debate Competitions | <p>Mr. Coverstone announced that he met with staff in hopes to reinvigorate the MNPS debate competitions.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTSCO Cane Ridge High School | <p>Ms. Johnson thanked the PTSCO at Cane Ridge High School for securing a donation of \$5,000 from Ole South Properties.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Neighborhood Health Services | <p>Ms. Johnson thanked United Neighborhood Health Services for providing free health screenings at a Neighborhood Association meeting she attended.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Concert | <p>Ms. Johnson announced a jazz concert on February 14th at 8:00 p.m. held at the Z. Alexander Looby Theater through Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation.</p> | |

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 10, 2009

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/MOTION | FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME |
|---|---|-------------------|
| • Read Me Week | Ms. Porter urged her colleagues to join her in reading to MNPS students over the next few weeks. | |
| • Community Meeting | Ms. Porter announced the community meeting at Maplewood High School on February 17 th and the school tour on February 18 th . She encouraged the community to attend the community meeting to meet Dr. Register. | |
| WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD | | |
| • Board Calendar Items | | |
| ADJOURNMENT | | |
| • Adjournment | Mr. Coverstone made the motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. | |
| • Signatures | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 150px;"/> Chris M. Henson Board Secretary </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 150px;"/> David A. Fox Board Chair </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Date </div> </div> | |