

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
July 14, 2009

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
• Roll Call	Members Present: David A. Fox (left 5:13 p.m.), Chair; Gracie Porter, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; Dr. Sharon Gentry; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Ed Kindall; Mark North Member Absent: District 9 seat vacant. Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.	
• Pledge of Allegiance	Led by Thomas Hatfield, Director of Maintenance and Operations.	
• In Memoriam Eugene Lynn, Former School Board Member	Mr. Lynn, age 86 of Nashville, TN, passed away at his home in the early morning of July 6, 2009. He was born on September 11, 1922 in Jackson County, TN. He was a graduate of East High School, attended Lipscomb University, served in the U.S. Army, and was manager of the Tokyo PX. Mr. Lynn spent six years in Tokyo, where he met his wife, Pauli Ricci, and where their first son was born. Upon returning to Nashville in 1951, he purchased the drug store where he worked as a teenage curb boy. In addition to owning and operating Lynn Drugs at 6th and Shelby for over 55 years, Mr. Lynn served on the Nashville School Board and was the Purchasing Director for the Nashville Metropolitan Government. He was an active member of the community, public speaker, Sunday school teacher, bridge player, big band dancer, and was beloved by all. He will be sadly missed.	
• In Memoriam – John Guthrie and Jamie Hopkins	John Louis Guthrie, Jr. 8/12/50 – 6/10/09 - John Guthrie attended Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Tennessee State University and served in the United States Armed Forces. He started working for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools as a school bus driver on October 12, 2005. John drove special needs children for the Transportation Department. It takes a special person to work with our children, and that truly describes John. He knew each of his children and their special need, making sure each child had the care they needed and deserved. The children loved “Mr. John” so much; he was always smiling and had a kind word to share with everyone. If ever there was a need, John was there volunteering his help in any capacity. John was driving a bus for Anchor Tours when he suffered a massive heart attack. Mr. John Louis Guthrie, Jr. will be terribly missed by the Transportation Department and each person who had the pleasure and honor of knowing him. Jamie L. Hopkins 5/25/1970 – 6/11/2009 - Mr. Jamie Hopkins was a dedicated Assistant Principal at Jere Baxter Middle School during the 2008-2009 school year. His career in Metro Nashville Public Schools started as a special needs resource teacher at Joelton Middle School. Over the past three	

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In Memoriam – John Guthrie and Jamie Hopkins - continued	years, Mr. Hopkins worked hard on his own education and career, moving from teacher to administrator in a short time period. Mr. Hopkins was just finishing his dissertation, and was expecting to attain his Ed.D. at the end of this year. Jamie Hopkins will always be remembered for his unwavering commitment to his job and the example he set as a hard working and conscientious employee. He was excited about his work, setting high standards for himself and others alike. He will be greatly missed by the faculty, students and administration at Jere Baxter Middle School. But perhaps the greatest loss will be experienced by MNPS as a whole. His future was as bright as his personality. We were robbed of that future too soon.	
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS		
Tennessee School Plant Management Association	The Tennessee School Plant Management Association (TSPMA) was started in 1978 with the purpose of helping to provide schools with quality facilities. Mr. Johnny Cordell, Director of School in Sequatchie County and President of the Tennessee School Plant Management Association, presented MNPS employees Thomas Hatfield, Chris Anderson, Louis Burnett, David Mitchell, and Jeremy Hatfield with Certificates of Recognition for completing a training course provided by TSPMA and the University of Tennessee.	
Lance Lott	Dr. Register thanked Mr. Lott for his dedicated service to MNPS as Assistant Superintendent of Information Technology. Mr. Lott will be stepping down from his position to become a teacher and the girl's softball coach at Cane Ridge High School. Mr. Lott thanked the Board and Dr. Register and stated that he looked forward to beginning a new phase in his career.	
Alan Coverstone	Mr. Fox announced that Mr. Coverstone resigned as District 9 School Board member and is now the MNPS Executive Director of Charter Schools and Private Schools. Mr. Fox thanked Mr. Coverstone for his dedicated service during his tenure and wished him the best in his new role.	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION		
Kurt Kosack – Improving Our Urban High Schools with Financial Incentives	Mr. Kosack spoke to the Board concerning improving our urban high schools with financial incentives to students. He asked the Board to consider offering students financial incentives to increase student motivation and commitment, and decrease negative behaviors and attitudes.	
Cecilia Rockey – Cuts to Arts Programs at J.T. Moore	Ms. Rockey addressed the Board concerning cuts to arts programs at J.T. Moore. She asked the Board to consider partnering with Fine Arts for Moore to most effectively continue to advocate for Music and Fine Arts at J.T. Moore and all of MNPS.	

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Erik Huth –MNEA	Dr. Huth, MNEA President, addressed the Board concerning the reduction in Career & Technical Education teachers, the Employee Benefit System (EBS), and attracting and retaining minority teachers in MNPS.	
DISTRICT 9 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES		
Paul Brenner	Mr. Brenner introduced himself to the Board and audience and gave a brief overview of his professional resume and personal accomplishments.	
Rich Hagland	Mr. Hagland introduced himself to the Board and audience, and gave a brief overview of his professional resume. He believes that his passion for education, experience, and knowledge of education law and policy make him the best candidate for the District 9 seat.	
Martin Kennedy	Mr. Kennedy introduced himself to the Board and audience, and gave a brief overview of his professional resume and values concerning the district.	
Michael LaHaie	Mr. LaHaie introduced himself to the Board and audience, and gave a brief overview of his professional resume. He stated that he supported the School Reform plan and hoped to work with the Board to offer continued support of the School Reform plan.	
Julie Lamb	Ms. Lamb, MNPS parent, has been closely associated with the district for many years. She stated she would like to represent the voice of the Hillwood cluster parents. She would like to focus on communicating with parents in more effective ways in order to promote the needed changes in the Hillwood cluster.	
Lee Limbird	Ms. Hawkins, Board Administrator, read a letter from Ms. Limbird addressing her interest in filling the vacant District 9 Board seat. In her statement, Ms. Limbird stated she hopes to work with the Board to set the standard high to achieve the best public education system.	
Elizabeth Merkel	Ms. Merkel introduced herself to the Board and gave a brief overview of her professional resume. She stated that she would bring the ability to build strong and successful solutions to the Board.	
Kay Simmons	Ms. Simmons addressed the Board and audience concerning interest in the vacant Board member seat. She has been involved in various aspects of public/private education in Nashville for the last 35 years, and she is willing to make the necessary sacrifices to serve MNPS.	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
- ACTIONS - Consent Agenda	Dr. Brannon read the following consent agenda items: V-A-1-a-Approval of Minutes - 6/23/09 Regular Board Meeting; V-A-1-b – Recommendation for Approval – Architect/Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc. – Glenview Elementary School Addition – MBOE-09-016; V-A-1-c-	

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Consent Agenda - continued	Recommendation for Approval – Architect/Facilities Design Group, Inc. – Crieve Hall Elementary School Addition and Renovation – MBOE-09-012; V-A-1-d- Recommendation for Approval – Architect/Gilbert/McLaughlin/Casella-Haywood Elementary Addition-MBOE-09-014; V-A-1-e- Recommendation for Approval – Robert S. Biscan & Company-Madison Middle School-MBOE 09-002; V-A-1-f- Change Order #2 for John Overton High School Addition and Renovation – Shankle-Lind, LLC- M-412; V-A-1-g- Change Order #3 for Family & Employee Health Clinics-Kerry G. Campbell-M-414; V-A-1-h- Change Order #54 for Prototypical Playgrounds (Bellshire Elementary)- Custom Recreation, Inc. – M-337; V-A-1-i- Change Order #55 for Prototypical Playgrounds (Gower Elementary) – Custom Recreation, Inc. –M-337; V-A-1-j- Change Order #2 for Transitional ADA Upgrade for Hillwood High School – Kerry G. Campbell, Inc. –M-398; V-A-1-k- Designer Supplement #1 for Madison Middle School Renovation – Thomas, Miller & Partners, PLLC.-L-2212; V-A-1-l- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Tennessee Department of Education, (2.) Tennessee Department of Education, (3.) Catapult Learning, LLC, (4.) WEB Associates; V-A-1-m- Legal Settlement – Claim C-24213 (\$20,000); V-A-1-n- Legal Settlement – Case Number 3:09-00446; V-A-1-o- Approval of Reduction in Force; V-A-1-p- Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline; V-A-1-q- Approval of Special Courses. Mr. Glover moved to adopt. Mr. Kindall seconded.	VOTE: 7-0 - Unanimous
Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline	Mr. Tony Majors, principal of Glencliff High School, addressed the Board concerning the changes to the Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline formerly known at the Student Code of Conduct. The Code was revised primarily to align MNPS disciplinary codes with state disciplinary codes. The new Code also supports the district’s structure of disciplinary matters being determined at the school and cluster levels. The new policy also lowers the number of disciplinary reporting categories. The Code does not limit nor restrict suspensions for zero tolerance or more severe disciplinary infractions. The new Code is also condensed to a 4-page tri-folded brochure that includes parental, student and school signature lines for documentation of receipt. Mr. Kindall asked concerning student appeals of disciplinary decisions, students are usually given five days to submit an appeal. How is receipt determined? Mr. Majors stated there will be a line added for the principal to identify the form of communication on the new Notice of Suspension forms.	

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• Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline - continued	The principal is responsible for using any means of communication, documenting the communication efforts, and exhausting all methods of communication. Dr. Register thanked the principals and administrators for their leadership and work on the Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline. Mr. Glover seconded.	VOTE: 7-0 – Unanimous
REPORTS		
• Director's Report		
○ Athletics Monitoring Report	Mr. Brunette presented the Board with a Power Point on the Athletics Department. The purpose of the Athletics Department is to promote the academic mission of the school system. One of the goals of the Athletic Department is to increase participation in extracurricular activities because of all of the benefits. A total of 8,737 students participated in athletics during the 2008-09 school year. A total of 38 middle schools and 25 high schools participated in athletics. MNPS has approximately 700 athletic coaches in grades 7-12. MNPS academic standards for sports participation exceed those of the TSSAA. Mr. North asked if there was the possibility of expanding the Play It Smart tutoring program. Mr. Brunette said one more school has been added and he hopes to add more, but funding must be secured. Ms. Johnson asked for the criteria of the Play It Smart program and if the program could be spread throughout the county. Mr. Brunette said he would provide the criteria at a later time, and that decision for additional locations is determined by the NFL and the Play It Smart program. Ms. Porter encouraged the Board and audience to attend MNPS athletic events. Ms. Porter asked if there was a reason for the drop off of student athletic participation from middle to high school. Mr. Brunette said the participation decrease from middle to high school could be attributed to changes in student interests and that some students begin to work.	
○ Executive Director of IT	Dr. Register announced the hiring of Mr. John Williams as the new Executive Director of Information Technology. Williams, who has more than 18 years experience, was selected from a candidate pool of over 130 applicants. Williams will oversee all information technology matters, including development and implementation of programs that meet the requirements of district policies and strategies.	

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○ Summer Leadership Institute	Dr. Register announced that the Summer Leadership Institute will be held July 20-22. This year's theme is: Leadership and Cultural Competence.	
• Board Chairman's Report ○ Vision Process Update	The Board is making progress in defining a vision that is expected to inspire all MNPS stakeholders. The Board is working with a firm that is very experienced in helping Boards refine and clarify their goals. Once the vision is completed, it will become part of the day-to-day consciousness of all MNPS employees and help to achieve systemwide excellence. This new vision is informed by the hard work and dedication of hundreds of MNPS supporters. In the coming weeks, the visioning process will conclude and the Board will be asked to affirm the vision. The vision is expected to drive profound improvement in MNPS, attract strong community buy-in, and help keep the Board united.	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
• District 9 Candidates	Ms. Porter announced the Metro Council will hold a meet and greet on July 20th at 5:30 p.m. with District 9 candidates. On July 21st, the Metro Council will appoint the District 9 representative.	
• Mayor's First Day Festival	On August 9 th at 2:00 p.m., the Mayor's First Day Festival will be held. Ms. Johnson noted the opportunity for a team of 15-20 volunteers to assist with a special project on July 16 th at the Board of Education Central Office, Room B-308 at 1:00 pm. Volunteers will receive a gift card and snack; transportation can also be arranged.	
• Swearing In of Board Members and Student Board Members.	On August 11th the appointed District 9 Board member and student Board members will be sworn in.	
• Employee Hearing	On September 22nd, an employee hearing will be held after the Board meeting.	
• Mayor's Hot Chicken Festival	Ms. Porter announced that she attended the Mayor's Hot Chicken Festival. She encouraged the Board and audience to attend the event next year. Mr. North also attended the event.	
• You Can Make It Youth Conference	Ms. Johnson announced the You Can Make It Youth Conference to be held at Mount Zion Baptist Church (Old Hickory Location) on July 30 th -31 st .	
• Governance Committee	Mr. North asked the Board to monitor emails from Ms. Hawkins concerning scheduling a Governance Committee meeting.	
• Madison	Mr. North announced the Madison Community Breakfast on July 16 th at 7:00 a.m. at the Madison Station Senior Center. This is a free event.	

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WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
• Board Calendar Items		
• Adjournment	Mr. Kindall made the motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.	
• Signatures	Chris M. Henson Board Secretary David A. Fox Board Chair Date	