

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
March 24, 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 (arrived 5:20 p.m.); Mark North; Brittany McShand, Student Board Member</p> <p>Members Absent: Ed Kindall; Sierra Scivally, Student Board Member</p> <p>Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge of Allegiance | Led by Ralph Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Board Member Report | <p>Ms. McShand reported that T-MAC and the Director's Student Advisory Council held a meeting on March 11 at Coleman Park Community Center. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Jesse Register and Mr. John Norris, MNPS consultant. On March 13, five students from the Director's Advisory Council attended the SCOPE conference. There will be a meeting held April 17, at 3:30 p.m. to continue the conversation around students and parents becoming more involved in school safety. On March 6, in a joint effort between Safe and Drug Free Schools and the Cumberland River Ombudsman program, ten students from the Ombudsman program were provided with a guided tour of Middle Tennessee State University. The students received admission packets and a complimentary snack from the MTSU Student Center.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Memoriam – Harold Cannaday and Vickie Ann Smith | <p>Harold Cannaday was a retired Naval Officer who worked as a MNPS bus driver from January 8, 2001 until the time of his passing on March 10, 2009. He was diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgeries and treatments, and was determined to continue driving the bus for the students he so dearly loved. He drove for the last time Wednesday, March 4. Harold always had a welcoming smile and a willing, cooperative attitude. He will be missed.</p> <p>On Thursday, March 5, 2009, DuPont-Hadley Middle School lost a wonderful and very kind Special Education Assistant One-On-One. Mrs. Vickie Smith was a dedicated wife of more than 25 years and mother of two sons, one daughter and one step-daughter. She was attending school at Middle Tennessee State University, hoping to one day become a Special Education Teacher. She was also a very talented artist and enjoyed painting, sketching and other various areas of artwork. Mrs. Smith was a beekeeper that raised honey on her family farm. In the short time that Mrs. Smith was a part of the DuPont-Hadley Middle School family, her kindness, her smile, her soft spoken voice and her love for all the students that she worked with directly and indirectly will not be forgotten. Mrs. Smith will be deeply missed by her</p> | |

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| | DuPont-Hadley family and students. | |
| GOVERNANCE ISSUES | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTIONS • Consent Agenda | <p>Mr. Glover asked the Board to suspend the rules to allow for a discussion on the budget process to be added to the agenda. The discussion would allow for a Budget and Finance Committee report and also include a motion to suspend the budget process for the 2009-2010 school year.</p> <p>Ms. Porter read the following consent agenda items: III-A-1-a- Approval of Minutes–03/10/09 Regular Board Meeting; III-A-1-b – Recommendation for Approval – Architect/Thomas Miller & Partners-Madison Middle School-MBOE-09-001-(Control No. A-23077); III-A-1-c- Recommendation for Approval –Architect/Hasting Architectural Associates-Wharton Elementary School-MBOE-07-004-(Control No. A-23140); III-A-1-d- Extension of Contract for Professional Services – Materials Testing – Beaver Engineering, Inc., - L-1768; III-A-1-e- Extension of Contract for Professional Services –Materials Testing – Professional Service Industries, Inc. – L-1769; III-A-1-f- Extension of Contract for Professional Services – Materials Testing-Qore, Inc.-L-1781; III-A-l-g- Extension of Contract for Professional Services – Materials Testing – Southern Consulting, LLC-L-1770; III-A-1-h- Extension of Contract for Repairs to Various Athletic Fields – Bruce Adams Construction, Inc. – A-21484; III-A-1-i- Change Order #1 for John Overton High School Additions and Renovations – Shankle-Lind, LLC-M-412; III-A-1-j- Designer Supplement #3 for Maplewood High School Renovation-Kline Swinney & Associates – L-1969; III-A-1-k- Change Order #48 for Prototypical Playgrounds (Hull-Jackson, Inglewood and Hattie Cotton) – Custom Recreation, Inc. – M-337; III-A-1-l- Change Order #49 for Prototypical Playgrounds (Warner Elementary) – Custom Recreation, Inc. –M-337; III-A-1-m- Change Order #50 for Prototypical Playgrounds (Stratton Elementary) – Custom Recreation, Inc. –M-337; III-A-1-n- Change Order #51 for Prototypical Playgrounds (Sylvan Park Elementary) – Custom Recreation, Inc. – M-337; III-A-1-o- MetLife Contract for 403b Services.</p> <p>Dr. Brannon made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Coverstone seconded.</p> | <p>VOTE: For–7-0 – (Unanimous) Items III-A-1-a - III-A-1-n Mr. Glover abstained from item III-A-1-o (Vote: 6-0-1).</p> |

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| • Legal Settlement – C-24312 | Mr. Glover moved to accept the recommendation of Metro Legal and accept the Legal Settlement C-24312. Dr. Brannon seconded. | VOTE: 7-0 Unanimous |
| • Legal Settlement – L-14869 | Mr. Glover moved to accept the recommendation of Metro Legal and accept Legal Settlement L-14869. Dr. Brannon seconded. | VOTE: 7-0 Unanimous |
| • Student Disciplinary Appeal | Mr. Coverstone moved to accept the Administration’s recommendation on the Student Disciplinary Appeal. Dr. Brannon seconded. | VOTE: 6-0-1 Unanimous (Mr. Glover abstained) |
| • 2009-2010 Budget and Finance Committee Report | <p>Mr. Glover stated that the Budget and Finance Committee met and agreed to recommend the suspension of the 2009-2010 budget process until accurate information is received regarding federal, state and local funding. Mr. Glover stated that he sent a letter to Council members Jim Forkum and Megan Barry, and to the Mayor’s Office alerting them of the decision.</p> <p>Mr. Glover moved to suspend the 2009-2010 operating budget process until accurate revenue information is received regarding federal, state and local funding. Ms. Porter seconded.</p> | VOTE: 7-0 Unanimous |
| • Monitoring Reports – First Reading -ELL | Mr. Glover moved to adopt and put on the consent agenda. Mr. Coverstone seconded. | VOTE: 7-0 Unanimous |
| • Special Education | Mr. Glover moved to send the Special Education monitoring report back to the Governance Committee due to the tie vote and place on the next meeting’s consent agenda for first reading. Mr. North seconded. | VOTE: 7-0 Unanimous |
| • Board Development – Discipline and Standard School Attire | <p>Mr. Thompson presented a monitoring report on the work of the Department of Student Services relating to discipline and Standard School Attire (SSA). He discussed information on the following areas: Attendance/Truancy, Discipline, School Security, Standard School Attire, School Social Work, Homeless Education Resource Outreach (HERO), Behavior Specialists, and Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities.</p> <p>Ms. Porter stated that the SSA and discipline numbers along with the successes of students should be considered. Mr. North asked for a synopsis of the criteria that NCLB uses to deem whether or not a school or district is safe? Mr. Thompson stated that the state considers the total number of zero tolerance cases, victim report files and then divides that total by the number of students in the schools. That number can not exceed three percent of the student population. Ms. Johnson asked if the default problem concerning attendance reporting had been corrected. Mr. Thompson said no, but hopes to implement strategies that will help the problem in the near future. Ms. Johnson asked would the teachers be included in correcting and developing</p> | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Development – Discipline and Standard School Attire - continued | <p>the truancy initiative? What is the timeline of developing the attendance committees? Mr. Thompson said teachers will be members of the Attendance Team. Once the plan is finalized, implementation should begin next school year. Ms. Johnson asked if Chief Serpas had been updated on the new truancy initiatives. Mr. Thompson said yes. Mr. Coverstone said it is important that MNPS is accounting for every student. There can be a tendency for people to shift blame. To what extent are the efforts being focused on by all involved? Is the effort integrated? Do we look at the data to drive decisions about programs? Do you feel those kinds of integrated services are working together? Mr. Thompson said he believes integration of parents, communities and other Metro government agencies is extremely important. Integration of all of these entities is important for progress to be made. Right now, it is important that we get parents to be more accountable for the students' actions. More staff development and intervention needs to be provided to teachers in order to reach our students. Mr. Glover asked what additional funding has been used for increasing parental involvement. Are we getting a good return on our funds used? What is the added cost of parental involvement to stop negative behavior? Research shows that 1%-2% of students cause the majority of school disruptions. What are we actually going to do to effectively go after that student population? Mr. Thompson stated that he would provide the Board with the answers to those questions at a later time. Dr. Gentry asked if MNPS is coordinating efforts with other Metro agencies? What is the formal information process? Is there a simple diagram to show how students get placed in an Alternative Learning Center? What interventions can be documented for students in an ALC? What is the process for re-entry to the regular school? Mr. Thompson stated that he would provide that information to the Board at a later time. Ms. Johnson asked if MNPS assesses the partner agencies that work with our students. Mr. Thompson said an assessment is conducted with each agency.</p> | |
| REPORTS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director's Report Student Assignment Plan Update | <p>Mr. Weber provided an update on the Student Assignment Plan. On February 9, 2009, all students with options due to rezoning were mailed letters as well as a copy sent home from the school. On February 19, the administration met</p> | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director's Report Student Assignment Plan Update - continued | <p>with principals from the Hillwood and Pearl-Cohn Clusters to discuss the best methods of notifying families of the options that are available. At that time, dates were scheduled for the "Ask and Enroll" community meetings. There will be a total of six MNPS Ask & Enroll events during the month of March. These meetings are in addition to other community events that have taken place during this same time. The Customer Service Center will begin extended hours from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from March 23 – 31. There have been coordinated efforts with Alignment Nashville/Parent University to involve community organizations and churches in this outreach effort. These communication efforts were conducted in multiple communities throughout Davidson County. The schools have been working extremely hard to contact families and make them aware of their options. As the letters have been returned, the Student Assignment Office has maintained a database of the responses. Every week the schools have received a progress report to identify which students have not responded to the letters. The Family Services division has now formed outreach teams to assist any school that has more than 25 students for which the parents have not yet responded. Each team is contacting the school principal to form a plan to contact each family. These teams are also engaging approximately 70 school employee volunteers. The first phase of these efforts will be to contact parents by phone, and the second phase will be to conduct door-to-door visits as needed to reach every family. There are approximately 30 parent volunteers that will be assisting the teams as needed. The district is also in the process of contacting any school with fewer than 25 students for which the parents have not responded. These schools are being congratulated for a job well done, as well as being offered assistance to contact the remaining families.</p> <p>Ms. Porter asked what happens if a student misses the deadline. Mr. Weber said the Administration is committed to meeting the 100% response goal. Therefore, if the 100% goal has not been met by the deadline, the deadline will be extended.</p> | |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Register - School Reform Initiative | <p>Dr. Register announced that the Annenberg Institute for School Reform will be visiting MNPS April 6-8. He announced that the Board is scheduled to meet with the group on April 7.</p> | |

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| • Southeast Area Easter Event | Ms. Johnson announced the Southeast Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 at 10:00 at the Antioch Community Center. More than 1,000 children are expected to attend. Also, several television characters and the Easter Bunny will be in attendance. | |
| • Oasis Center Grand Opening | Ms. Porter announced that she attended the Oasis Center's grand opening of its new facility. She also attended the SCOPE conference and the America's Promise conference. | |
| • Response to Supporting Literature Against Student Assignment Plan | Mr. North stated that the Board received a packet of documents from Mr. Won Choi entitled "Supporting Literature Presentation to MNPS Board of Education." Mr. North stated that he reviewed the documents and prepared an analysis. He also reviewed a publication entitled, "Still Looking to the Future Voluntary K-12 School Integration: A Manual for Parents, Educators and Advocates" published by the NAACP. Mr. North presented his analysis to Dr. Register and to each Board member. He stated that the recommended solutions in each of those documents bear striking resemblance to the recommendations of the Community Task Force adopted by the Board and currently being implemented for the 2009-2010 school year. | |
| WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD | | |
| • Sales Tax Collections as of 3-20-09 | | |
| • Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget Financial Report | | |
| • Board Calendar Items | | |
| ADJOURNMENT | | |
| • Adjournment | Mr. Coverstone made the motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. | |
| • Signatures | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <u>Chris M. Henson</u> Board Secretary </div> <div> <u>David A. Fox</u> Board Chair </div> <div> <u> </u> Date </div> </div> | |