

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
November 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; Dr. Sharon Gentry; Karen Y. Johnson; Mark North; Kay Simmons; and Student Board Members Mr. Steele and Mr. Haidar</p> <p>Members Absent: Steve Glover and Ed Kindall</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 Connie Williams, Executive Director of the PENCIL Foundation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Board Member Report 	Mr. Haidar announced that T-MAC will be holding a meeting November 12 th . At the meeting, a formal conversation will be held with area private school students around the topic of school climate and academics. Mr. Haidar provided the Board with fliers for the meeting. Mr. Steele announced that T-MAC students will participate in the Bi-Annual Presentation to David Lipscomb University pre-service teachers on November 16 th from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. T-MAC students will share their views on how positive communication and relationships can be developed between students and adults at school to promote learning. Mr. Thompson and Ms. Davis will accompany students to the event.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran's Day 	The Board paused in remembrance of the soldiers killed and injured at Ft. Hood, as well as the countless others who died serving our country.	
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PENCIL Foundation – Connie Williams 	Ms. Williams thanked supporters of the LP PENCIL Box, an arm of PENCIL created to provide free school supplies to MNPS teachers. She thanked many organizations for their support including those in attendance: Katie Morrison with Earl Swensson and Associates, Bob Hyde with the Titans, Don Caldwell with Dell, and Ken and Gail McDaniel.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulbright Distinguished Awards Teachers at Vanderbilt University 	The Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching (DAT) Program launched its inaugural cohort in 2009. Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, the program recognizes and encourages excellence in teaching in the U.S. and abroad. The program sends highly accomplished primary and secondary teachers from the U.S. and abroad, and brings international teachers to the U.S for a semester-long program. Participating countries are Argentina, Finland, India, Israel, Singapore and South Africa. Peabody College was selected as the program's first host university. Distinguished teachers will enroll in graduate level classes, conduct research, lead classes and seminars for U.S. teachers and students, and engage in other teaching related activities. The following	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulbright Distinguished Awards Teachers at Vanderbilt University - continued 	distinguished teachers introduced themselves to the Board and gave a brief summary of their experience: Alicia Canevaro and Alicia Marconi - Argentina; Merja Karvinen and Sanna Ranta-Nilkku - Finland; Padma Gurumurthy and Mini Joseph - India; Ahmad Amer, Leah Shagrir and Elaine Hoter - Isarel; Anthony Andrew, Kum Fong Foo and Suriani Othman - Singapore; and Paul Wilton - South Africa.	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Owens for SEIU – Support Employee Complaint 	Attorney Michelle Owens requested that the Board review the Administration’s decision regarding Ms. Betty Russell’s grievance.	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIONS Consent Agenda 	Ms. Porter read the following consent agenda items: V-A-1-a-Approval of Minutes – 10/27/09 Regular Board Meeting; V-A-1-b –Recommended Award of Contract for Security Vestibule Drafting and Technical Services at Various Schools – Michael Rahal – MBOE# 09-27-Control No. A-24326; V-A-1-c- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) National Paideia Center, (2.) The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), (3.) Kastle Instructional Recovery, LLC. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. North seconded.	VOTE: 7-0 - Unanimous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee Dismissal Charges- Jennifer Townes 	<p>Dr. Register read the following letter: I am writing to recommend the dismissal of Jennifer Townes from employment as a tenured teacher with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, pursuant to T.C.A § 49-5-511. I have charged her with incompetence, which is grounds for her dismissal pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-511. The charge is specifically defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-501. Evidence supporting the charge was set forth in my letter to Jennifer Townes on October 26, 2009, a copy of which is attached. I am asking you to certify the charges by voting that, if proven true, the charge warrants her dismissal. Should you certify the charge, I will inform Jennifer Townes of your action and formally advise her of the right to request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer. At the present time, I am only asking you to certify the charge. I am not asking you to weigh evidence either for or against dismissal. I am merely asking you to vote that the charge, if proven true, warrants dismissal. If Jennifer Townes requests a hearing, it will occur at some point in the future. Accordingly, it is my recommendation that Jennifer Townes be dismissed from employment with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.</p> <p>Dr. Brannon made the motion to certify the charges. Ms. Porter seconded.</p>	VOTE: 7-0 - Unanimous

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter School Review Committee Recommendations 	<p>Mr. Coverstone presented the Charter School Review Committee recommendations to the Board and audience (see attachment).</p> <p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the Charter School application recommendations to the Board.</p> <p>Mr. North made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Charter School Review Committee to deny the application for Metro Preparatory Academy. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p> <p>Mr. North made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Charter School Review Committee to deny the application for 21st Century Learning Academy. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p> <p>Mr. North made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Charter School Review Committee to deny the application for Drexel Preparatory Academy. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p> <p>Mr. North made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Charter School Review Committee to deny the application for Smithson Craighead Academy High School. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p> <p>Mr. North made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Charter School Review Committee to deny the application for New Vision Academy. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p> <p>Mr. North made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Charter School Review Committee to deny the application for Nashville School of Science and Technology. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous</p> <p>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous</p> <p>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous</p> <p>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous</p> <p>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous</p> <p>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous</p>
REPORTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director's Report 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennessee Department of Education Report Card 	Dr. Changas presented a report to the Board on the Tennessee Department of Education Report Card (see attachment).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Chairman's Report 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of the Great City Schools 	Dr. Brannon read the following report: As Board representative for the Council of the Great City Schools, I was able to attend the 53 rd Annual Fall Conference held Oct 28 – Nov 1 in Portland, Oregon. For more than 50 years, the Council has represented America's largest urban schools from its	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council of the Great City School - continued 	<p>headquarters in Washington D.C. The Council is recognized as one of the premier advocacy organizations for children and public education. It has a reputation that is well-deserved based on hard work, consistency of mission and a dedicated staff led by Mike Casserly, who never forgets they are working on behalf of America's children. Our organization represents 66 urban districts in the U.S. with city populations of 250,000 and student enrollments over 35,000. An inspiring welcoming address was delivered by Chair Dr. Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools. She reminded us that we are the voices for the 7.1 million students, and 430,042 teachers who are in 11,787 urban schools, and we have an obligation to educate ALL 7.1 million students. Our keynote speakers during the conference were Vicki Phillips, former Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, presently Director of Education (College Ready Program) for the Gates Foundation; Marc Lamont Hill, author, social critic and intellectual who asked if we have first-class jails and second class schools; and Soledad O'Brien, CNN Anchor, special correspondent, and journalist, who also served as moderator for the 90-minute town hall meeting on the topic: Urban Schools Turn Challenges into Opportunity in Teaching English Language Learners. The highlight of the town hall meeting was the participation of Sergio Amador Garcia – a 12th grade student who spoke about his progress in working with his teacher and a tutor to improve his English skills in less than a year after arriving from Cuba in January of this year. He was speaking before more than 300 adults and giving pointers on how he learned to speak English so quickly. He attributed his progress to being around others who spoke English and the extra-curricular activities that he had selected and his determination as being most helpful in his acquisition of English. The break-out sessions centered around Five Strands – Achievement Gaps in Content Areas; Professional Development; Leadership; Bilingual, Refugees and Immigrant Education; and School Finance and Facilities. Each year the Richard Green Award is presented alternately to a Superintendent or a School Board Member. This year's recipient was School Board member Emmett Johnson of the Atlanta Public Schools. The Council is noted for the validity of research briefs prepared to benefit all districts as a part of its ongoing efforts to provide large urban districts with the best available information regarding how to address their most important challenges, improve teaching / learning and reduce the achievement gaps. Briefs presented to the Board of Directors this year indicated successful practices and provided recommendations and centered around 4 main areas: English Language</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council of the Great City Schools - continued 	<p>Learners who make up 30 percent of the school-age population around the nation. The major recommendation among many coming out of this research suggests that districts should move away from prolonged classroom isolation of ELL students, which attributes to linguistic and social deficits. External and Internal Communication within Districts Managing Boards for Success/ that was also accompanied by a survey of Board members Building Confidence in Urban Schools I look forward to sharing these materials with my colleagues - or a visit to the Council's website at www.cgcs.org should take you to the links. A major concern to Board Members was the enormous fees paid to SES providers and a request was made to the Council to investigate the possibility of changes that can be made to this program. Finally, the Council has launched a National Ad that can be utilized by member districts to publish in their own in-house publications as well as in their respective local newspapers. The Council is also considering running the ad in other national publications. This ad will be shared with our Communications Department.</p> <p>I strongly urge my colleagues to continue our long-standing affiliation with the Council and to rely on the expertise and advocacy this organization has the ability to provide for our district. Hopefully, the economy will improve and allow more of our Board members to participate in the 54th Fall Conference that will be held in Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa, FL on Oct 20-24, 2010.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Assignment Task Force 	<p>Mr. North stated that the Student Assignment Task Force met on November 5th. There are three new members: Carolyn Wells appointed by Mayor Dean, Kris Neal appointed by David Fox, and Lee Limbird appointed by Kay Simmons. The task force discussed facilities and enrollment in the Antioch cluster.</p>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSBA Convention 	<p>Mr. Fox announced that TSBA will be holding their Annual Convention November 14-16 at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center. CLASS will be meeting on November 16th from 7:00-8:00 a.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Bill Wise Awards Banquet 	<p>Mr. Fox announced the Council of the Great City Schools will be holding its Annual Chief Financial Officers Conference. The Board has been invited to the 10th Annual Bill Wise Awards Banquet at the Sommet Center on November 19th at 6:00 p.m. This year, the organization is honoring the award's namesake, Dr. Bill Wise, former MNPS Superintendent.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nashville Alliance for Public Education Keep the Music Playing Concert 	Mr. Fox announced that the December 8 th Board meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. The Board has been invited to the Nashville Alliance for Public Education's Keep the Music Playing concert at the Schmerhorn Symphony Center. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 6:30 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth March 	Ms. Johnson announced the "Youth March" held on November 11 th hosted by MNPS students and the Oasis Center.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Exploration Fair 	Ms. Johnson congratulated MNPS staff for a successful Career Exploration Fair.	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Calendar Items 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjournment 	Ms. Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signatures 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <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 Date Board Chair </div> </div>	