BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for May 19, 2025

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19 at Coulter Grove Intermediate School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Bart Stinnett, and Candy Morgan. Chair Julie Elder called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Julie Elder asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Nick Black moved to adopt, and a second came from Bart Stinnett. The motion was adopted unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS
No comments were made by the public on agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
Isaac Simerly made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Nick Black seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of April 21, 2025, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve school fees of $45.00 for elementary schools, $55.00 for intermediate schools and Maryville Virtual School, and as outlined in the attachment for Maryville Junior High School and Maryville High School (Attachment A1)
3. Approve the Certification of Adoption for science textbooks (Attachment A2)
4. Approve three-year Transportation Contract with Rocky Top Tours, LLC
5. Approve Maryville Junior High School and Maryville High School Wrestling overnight to Asbury University in Kentucky – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A3)
6. Approve Maryville High School Chorus overnight to Camp-Ba-Yo-Ca in Sevierville, Tennessee – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A4)
7. Approve Maryville High School sports fees for 2025-26 (Attachment A5)

AGENDA

1. Consider awarding tenure to the following teachers:
    - FHE: Jacob Passmore, Christopher Recio, and Katherine Jones
    - SHE Rebecca Bennett and Ashley Gillum
    - CGIS: Elijah Harris, Wendy Newton, Gloria Prins and Melissa Hawthorne
    - MRIS: Cynthia Wright
    - MHS: Holly Harris, Larry Czulewicz, Wes Lambert, and Joseph Michalski

    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Tenure candidate Jacob Passmore spoke on behalf of all candidates, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to teach as a tenured educator in Maryville City Schools. He shared his vision for the future of MCS, the mission that guides his classroom, and his hope that all students are inspired to choose success.
    c. The School Board members expressed their appreciation and congratulations to the tenure candidates, noting their hope that these educators will continue their careers and eventually retire with Maryville City Schools. Board members thanked them for

their leadership in classrooms, schools, and the broader community, and for consistently placing the well-being of students at the center of their work.

d. Dr. Winstead awarded tenure certificates.

2. Consider FY26 Annual Budget (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Sarah Pritchard, Finance Director, shared that the proposed FY26 General-Purpose budget reflects a 4.85% increase over the amended FY25 budget. A significant portion of this increase is attributed to the planned use of fund balance, including $2 million set aside for the Sam Houston Elementary renovation project scheduled to begin in the spring, and $1 million in state-provided funding for teacher bonuses. Excluding these two items, the General-Purpose budget reflects a 0.83% increase. The proposed budget also includes funding for several capital projects outlined in the district's master facility plan. These include the final payment for the ESSI lighting project, remaining costs associated with the tennis court project, renovations at Maryville Virtual Academy to accommodate EIC students, completion of the MHS track building at CGIS, and renovations at Sam Houston Elementary. Additionally, the FY26 budget provides a 3.5% salary increase for all employees. Within the cafeteria fund, there is a noted use of fund balance to purchase a commercial dishwashing machine for the new cafeteria space, with a projected cost of approximately $1 million. The total proposed FY26 combined budget (all funds) represents a 7.65% increase over the approved FY25 budget. If approved by the Board, the budget will be presented to City Council for first reading on June 2 and second reading on June 23.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider 2025-26 Salary Scales (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. The 3.5% salary increase is reflected across all salary scales, with starting teacher pay for those holding a master's degree now beginning at $52,526. This positions us favorably compared to statewide averages and helps us remain competitive in recruiting and retaining high-quality educators.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Consider FY26-FY31 Facility Master Plan (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. No change in master plan. Just reordered some plans based on funding. Everything is after Sam Houston and High School expansion.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Consider purchase of textbooks for 4th – 7th grade science, Environmental Science, and Chemistry I from STEMscopes – Funding Source: Textbooks - $254,017.79 (Attachment B4)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead provided an overview of the textbook selection process and recommendations by the committee. In November 2024, the Board approved the list of committee members. Since then, the committee thoroughly reviewed the state-approved curriculum options. The state is now operating on an eight-year adoption cycle.
    c. Isaac Simerly inquired about the committee's satisfaction with the available adoption options.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Consider purchase of science textbooks for 8th grade science and Biology I from Savvas Learning Company- Funding Source: Textbooks - $113,494.32 (Attachment B5)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Candy Morgan.

b. Motion approved unanimously

7. Consider purchase of science textbooks for Physics and Anatomy and Physiology from McGraw Hill LLC – Funding Source: Textbooks - $28,513.16 (Attachment B6)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Motion approved unanimously.
8. Consider purchase of science textbooks for Chemistry I Honors, Chemistry II Honors, and AP Chemistry from Cengage – Funding Source: Textbooks - $26,079.40 (Attachment B7)
    a. Motion to approve from Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Motion approved unanimously
9. Consider purchase of science textbooks for AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics I, and AP Physics 2, from Bedford, Freeman, and Worth – Funding Source: Textbooks - $41,456.22 (Attachment B8)
    a. Motion to approve from Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Motion approved unanimously.
10. Consider quote from Central Technologies, Inc for Keyless Access – Funding Source: COPS Grant - $261,246.84 (Attachment B9)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead shared the excitement around launching this new safety and security initiative, funded through the COPS grant. Multiple options were reviewed, and the Avigilon system was ultimately selected, aligning with our current infrastructure. This system will allow us to track and manage access to all school buildings. All exterior locks will be replaced, and the grant covers both hardware and installation. Additional costs will be required to provide power to certain doors, and some older doors may need to be replaced due to outdated hardware. Installation will likely continue into the fall.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
11. Consider joining litigation through the Frantz Law Group pursuing claims for damages related to the PowerSchool data breach.
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead reiterated the district's position regarding PowerSchool, emphasizing that their core responsibility is to protect our data. As a company entrusted with sensitive information, they failed in this duty—lacking even basic safeguards like multi-factor authentication. Our agreement requires notification within seven days of a breach; however, PowerSchool waited nine days to inform us. This is a significant data breach affecting all MCS employees and enrolled students, and we know that our data has been compromised. Maryville City Schools will be participating in a mass-action lawsuit. While each district involved will file its own claim, the process will be coordinated under a single legal firm. There will be no financial cost to the district for participating in this legal action.
    c. During the discussion, Mr. Simerly asked whether there are any alternative student information systems (SIS) available. The state maintains an approved list, currently including six or seven vendors, and the approval process will soon be revisited. It will be important to see which systems are approved moving forward. As part of the ongoing litigation, PowerSchool may be required to provide funding for districts that choose to transition to a different SIS vendor. Although Maryville City Schools is one of the few districts in the state that hosts its SIS data on its own servers, PowerSchool still had access—and that access was compromised. There are reports that some districts are now receiving ransom demands as a result of this breach.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.

12. Consider renewal of IXL Learning for the 2025-26 school year. Funding Source: Summer School - $100,705.00 (Attachment B10)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinett.
    b. Assistant Director of Schools Amy Vagnier explained that the cost of IXL has increased, but it remains a highly valued tool among teachers. The district has explored alternative options, and Kevin Myers, Instructional Technology Coordinator, has worked to negotiate more competitive pricing. Despite the cost, IXL continues to be heavily utilized across schools. Mrs. Vagnier noted that in the upcoming school year, the district plans to take a closer look at how technology is used, including through initiatives like iReach. This will include reviewing all instructional software to ensure each product in use is effective, necessary, and approved—especially with regard to student data privacy. While teachers have appreciated having the autonomy to select tools that best fit their instructional style, many of these programs start with free versions and quickly escalate in cost. The goal is to strike a balance between offering flexibility and ensuring district-wide oversight of software use. Mrs. Vagnier emphasized the importance of selecting a strong, adaptive assessment tool that can be implemented consistently across all grade levels. The broader focus will also include promoting digital citizenship among students and maximizing the impact of technology purchases by ensuring teachers receive proper training and support. Dr. Winstead added that with so many ideas and tools in circulation, it's critical to find a balance and make strategic decisions. Mrs. Vagnier agreed, highlighting the importance of professional development to help teachers fully utilize the tools the district invests in.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead formally announced the following leadership transitions: Josh Oliver will be moving from his role as principal of John Sevier Elementary to serve as the new Assistant Director of Schools. Kevin Myers will transition from the District Office to principal at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate, and Lucas Vagnier will become the new principal at John Sevier Elementary. The assistant principal position at Sam Houston Elementary has been officially posted. All leadership transitions will take effect on June 2.

The district's new Food Service Director will begin this Friday and will be fully in place by June 2.

Dr. Winstead also shared how much he enjoyed the graduation ceremonies, noting that each was a meaningful celebration of student achievement. He especially appreciated the opportunity to use the Fort Craig gymnasium for the first time to host Maryville Virtual School’s Graduation ceremony.

Finally, construction officially began in the high school’s C Lot on Saturday morning, and a large tree on the site was removed earlier today.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

John Sevier would like to recognize the twenty-five 3rd grade students from their Unicycle Club who performed for all the JSE students and parents. JSE would also like to recognize their more than 80 1st-3rd grade drama students who participated in the Disney Alladin Performance.

Maryville High School and Maryville Virtual School both held their graduation ceremonies this past week. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Foothills Elementary has ended the school year with school-wide celebrations including glow parties, Camp Rocky, well-deserved park days, and a fun field day with dunk tanks, tug-of-war and many more fun activities.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Isaac Simerly thanked Amy Vagnier for her leadership and extended congratulations to Josh Oliver, Lucas Vagnier, and Kevin Myers on their new roles. He expressed excitement about the progress at the high school and appreciation to Dr. Winstead for keeping staff informed during recent public discussions regarding the high school. He also thanked everyone involved in organizing the Maryville Games and shared his support for the 3.5% salary increase, noting he was glad to see it included in the budget.

Candy Morgan shared that it has been a great end to the school year and noted how wonderful the graduation ceremonies were. She congratulated Josh, Lucas, and Kevin on their new roles and expressed her happiness in seeing them continue to serve the district in different capacities.

Bart Stinnett congratulated Kevin, Lucas, and Josh on their new positions and thanked Amy for her contributions as well. He commended Deana Bishop for an outstanding graduation ceremony, calling it a very special experience for students and also praised Heather Hilton for an exceptional graduation event at MHS. He reflected on graduation as both a joyful and bittersweet moment—marking an ending, but also a new beginning. He closed by expressing gratitude for an outstanding school year and wished everyone an enjoyable summer break.

Nick Black congratulated Lucas, Kevin, and Josh, expressing confidence in their continued success and leadership. He noted that it has been a great year and encouraged everyone to finish strong. He commended both graduation ceremonies, specifically mentioning how impressive the Fort Craig gym looked. He concluded by encouraging everyone to take time to relax and recharge over the summer.

Julie Elder shared her hope that everyone had a great school year. Echoing Jacob Passmore's earlier remarks, she thanked district leaders—including Amy and Mike—for their leadership and dedication. She also expressed appreciation to Kevin, Lucas, and Josh for their willingness to step into new roles and make important, and sometimes difficult, decisions.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:31
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene