BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for August18,2025

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on August 18 at the MCS District Office. Members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Candy Morgan, and Bart Stinnett. Board Chair Julie Elder called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Principal Deana Bishop reported a current enrollment of 70 students, including 24 seniors. In addition, 15 students participate in specialized programming, primarily from Maryville Academy, CGIS, and MHS, bringing the total enrollment served to 85 students.

Mrs. Bishop highlighted the school's motto, *"Blazing Our Own Path to Excellence,"* and emphasized the virtual school's commitment to differentiating instruction and providing multiple pathways for student success. Examples include:

- An Academic Support Center.
- Focus areas, including specialized focus areas for students with IEPs.
- Advanced Placement courses offered through Tennessee AP Access for All.
- Dual Enrollment opportunities and the Early College Experience, which allow juniors to begin earning college credits. Students may complete up to 30 hours prior to high school graduation. She noted one current sophomore who, through DE courses, could potentially graduate with 60 hours of college credit.
- Meeting NCAA requirements for students to play college sports.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made by the public on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Candy Morgan made the motion to adopt the consent agenda, and a second came from Bart Stinnett. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of July 21, 2025, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve changes to Board Policy 1.407, 1.901, 2.403, 4.403, 5.100, and 5.119 – second reading (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville High School Cross Country overnight to Trinity Valkyrie Invitational in Louisville, Kentucky – Funding Source: Team and Students (Attachment A2)

4. Approve Maryville High School Cross Country overnight to State Cross Country Championship in Memphis, Tennessee – Funding Source: MHS Athletics (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville High School Softball team overnight to compete in a softball tournament in Gulf Shores, Alabama – Funding Source: Softball Account (Attachment A4)
6. Ratify Executive Committee approval of bid from Volunteer Mechanical to replace the HVAC units on the John Sevier gym - $95,349.00 – Funding Source: Capital Outlay/Building Improvements (Attachment A5)
7. Approve to declare certain items as surplus and authorize their disposal (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Maryville Jr High School 9th grade band students overnight to attend ETSBOA All-State Band Clinic in Gatlinburg, Tennessee – Funding Source – student (Attachment A7)
9. Approve Maryville Jr High School band students to attend ETSBOA Concert Performance Assessment at Farragut High School – Funding Source: Student (Attachment A8)
10. Approve Maryville Jr High School 9th grade band students overnight to attend TMEA All-State Band Clinic in Nashville, Tennessee – Funding Source: student (Attachment A9)

AGENDA

1. Consider the 2026-2027 School Calendar (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead reported that the 2026–27 school year calendar will mirror the previous year's start, end, and break dates. The primary changes include designating the last day of school as a half-day for students with a half-day of self-directed professional development for teachers, and making the Monday after Easter a regular school day. These adjustments were made based on feedback from the Leadership Team and the TAC committee.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Consider bids for the Early Intervention Center renovation project - Funding Source: Building Improvements (Attachment B2)
    a. Dr. Winstead reported that three contractors submitted bids for the project. The lowest bid was submitted by King Construction of Cookeville, TN, a company with extensive experience on education projects in Putnam County and positive references. Their submission included a base bid of $1,245,000 and an alternate bid of $45,100 to resurface the parking lot, for a total of $1,291,000. The project is expected to follow a 240-day timeline. If work begins between Labor Day and fall break, the facility will be completed in time for the 2026–27 school year.
    b. Nick Black made the motion to approve the bid from King Consruction. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Consider purchase of a Cargo Van from Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Flat of Columbia - $47,132.00 (state contract) -Funding Source: Maintenance Equipment
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Dr. Winstead reported that a 1999 Ford truck will be replaced in the maintenance fleet, making the oldest vehicle in the fleet a 2010 Ford truck.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead expressed appreciation to principals, teachers, and Central Office staff for their efforts in getting the school year off to a strong start. He noted that enrollment typically stabilizes after about 10 days as withdrawals and moves are finalized. Enrollment for this year is anticipated to show little change from the previous year. While MRIS and CGIS remain over capacity, there is some relief at the kindergarten level.

Employee Bonus
A $2,000 bonus was issued on August 3 to all teachers who were employed last year. A second round of bonuses for classified staff and administrators will be presented to the Board for approval next month, with anticipated distribution on the November 3 payroll.

Student Achievement
Dr. Winstead emphasized the district's continued focus on meeting students' academic, behavioral, and emotional needs. He highlighted recent test results, noting that out of 28 state assessments, Maryville students ranked in the top five on 18 tests. The district was ranked 1st in the state for 8th grade Science and on the 9th grade Biology EOC, and 2nd in the state for 8th grade Math and Biology II. He noted there is much to celebrate, while also identifying areas for continued improvement.

Facilities
The high school track project punch list is nearly complete, with only a few items remaining. The tennis court punch list is finished, and tryouts have already been held on the new courts. The EIC project is moving forward, and work on the high school's "A Lot" is expected to be completed by the end of the month. At Sam Houston, the district is working with architects, with plans to bid the project in January.

Professional Development
Candy Morgan inquired about professional development funds provided by the Foundation, with a particular focus on AI. Some schools are pooling resources to bring in trainers and guest speakers, while others are sending teachers to national conferences. Mrs. Morgan asked whether funding for training might need to be supplemented. Dr. Winstead noted that the district also allocates over $200,000 to the schools for this purpose.

RECOGNITIONS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The first two weeks of school have been filled with exciting, family-centered events across the district. Along with school open houses, John Sevier Elementary held its annual Swim Week, featured on WBIR and WATE; Coulter Grove hosted Family Swim Night; MRIS students

decorated lockers and met teachers at Locker Night; Maryville High welcomed students at Maryville Mania; and Foothills Elementary hosted Snow Cones with the Principal.

Coordinators of JSE Swim Week: Jacob Prater, Kristy Vanderlip, Hannah McClam, Alya Mitchell, Jodi Eanes, Nicholas Clifton, Amanda Pechauer, Kim Fuchs, Kelli Nehf, Heather Ledbetter, Kristin Garza, Brooke Byrd, Chrissie Stowers, and Karen Pietzyk.

Maryville High School seniors took part in one of our newest traditions of painting their parking spaces. If you haven't been by the new S Lot to see them, it's definitely worth a visit!

Foothills Principal Kristin Bosco, along with teachers Kara Matthews and Alyson Colclough, were recently featured on WBIR sharing how AI is being used to support, not replace, teachers in the classroom. They talked about MagicSchool AI and how it's being used to support classroom instruction.

We are also proud to celebrate the Maryville High School Band, selected as a Conference Performing Ensemble for the 67th Annual Tennessee Music Educators' Association Professional Development Conference in April. This prestigious honor, one of the highest recognitions for a school ensemble in Tennessee, was announced to students as a surprise by Dr. Winstead and Principal Heather Hilton.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Candy Morgan commended the smooth start to the school year, noting the administrators, teachers, and staff who contributed to making the first weeks successful.

Isaac Simerly praised the strong start to the school year and thanked Principal Deana Bishop for her presentation. He highlighted the "Maryville mentality" of problem-solving and determination and expressed excitement about opportunities, such as students graduating high school with an associate degree. He celebrated the district's achievement of ranking in the top five on 18 state assessments, while also recognizing the importance of continuing to improve. He also complimented the seniors' painted parking spaces.

Bart Stinnett thanked Principal Bishop for her presentation and expressed hope that parents and students recognize the ways the district serves students. He shared positive feedback he has heard about the start of the year across all grade levels and extended appreciation to staff, giving a special acknowledgment to MHS Principal Heather Hilton for managing additional challenges. Speaking as a parent, he praised the district's culture of care, noting the support his family received when his son experienced a medical issue at a scrimmage.

Nick Black thanked Mrs. Bishop for her presentation and expressed excitement for the new school year. He praised last year's strong academic performance and emphasized pride in both current successes and the district's commitment to improvement. He shared his perspective as a parent of three children in grades 9, 6, and kindergarten, noting how meaningful it is to see

them start the year in MCS. He commended the district's focus on student care and continuous growth. Mr. Black expressed interest in revisiting the wireless communication device policy, suggesting that certain watches should be allowable and that device restrictions should align with the school day bell schedule. He also raised the importance of clarifying use and priority for the tennis courts to ensure the needs of our athletes are met. He closed by sharing his excitement about the Rebels vs. Tornados game on Friday.

Julie Elder also thanked Principal Deana Bishop for her presentation and adaptability, noting her ability to keep the focus on the district's core values that align with the motto, *We Are Maryville.* She celebrated the district's strong academic results and upgrades to facilities, while expressing pride and excitement for a successful school year ahead.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene