BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for October 20, 2025

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on October 20 at Sam Houston Elementary School. Members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Candy Morgan, and Bart Stinnett. Board Chair Julie Elder called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by 3rd grade student Hayes Foshee.

UPDATE FROM SAM HOUSTON

Principal Molly Rice welcomed the Board and guests to Sam Houston Elementary and expressed appreciation for her new assistant principal, Julie Vananda, commending her for an excellent start in her new role. Mrs. Rice centered her remarks on the idea of teachers as "change makers" and the powerful ripple effect they create through their impact on students, families, and the community. She emphasized the importance of cultivating environments of belonging and referenced John Hattie's research on highly effective educational practices, noting that teachers rank as the most influential factor in student success. Key components such as feedback, student relationships, and class discussions were highlighted, along with the value of collective teacher efficacy and focusing on what educators can control. Mrs. Rice also underscored the district-wide emphasis on vertical alignment and shared responsibility across schools. She closed by thanking the Board for their continued investment in teacher development and concluded with a short video presentation.

ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Julie Elder asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Candy Morgan 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

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

1. Approve Minutes of September 22,2025, meeting (Attachment)
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville Junior High School Tennis Team overnight trip to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for TMSAA State Tennis Tournament – Funding Source: Tennis Team Funds (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Rangers overnight to Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee action naming the road from Cunningham Street to the Don Story Building George Quarles Way (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Coulter Grove Intermediate School Leadership Team overnight to Charleston, South Carolina – Funding Source: Self Pay (Attachment A4)

6. Approve the 2025 LEA Compliance Report (Attachment A5)
7. Approve the 2025 TISA Accountability Report
8. Approve Maryville High School Model United Nations Club overnight to Chattanooga, Tennessee to attend a conference – Funding Source: Model UN fees (Attachment A6)

AGENDA

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Mike Winstead, Director of Schools, expressed appreciation for the approval to honor former MHS Football Coach George Quarles by naming a street in his honor. He noted that the celebration of Maryville's football legacy continues this week with the community-wide Homecoming Parade on October 23, featuring participation from all district schools.

Dr. Winstead reported that significant progress was made on the construction project at Maryville High School over fall break while students and staff were out of the building. Infrastructure improvements, including new water lines, were completed, and landscaping enhancements were added around the new parking lot. He shared that visible work on the foundation for the new Performing Arts Center is expected to begin in the coming weeks.

He also provided an update on the Sam Houston Elementary renovation, noting that he, along with Assistant Director Josh Oliver, Curriculum and Instruction Executive Director Amy Vagnier, and Sam Houston Principal Molly Rice met with Cope Architecture to review project plans. The construction timeline may advance slightly, with site work potentially beginning in January or February instead of spring break.

Dr. Winstead concluded by highlighting recent collaborative planning among teachers during the district's inservice day. High school (9–12) teachers began initial discussions about the upcoming grade reconfiguration, while junior high (7–8) and intermediate (4–6) teachers met to facilitate similar conversations. Four design teams will now begin intentional, purpose-driven planning focused on ensuring a smooth transition for students. The goal is to have clear staffing and placement plans identified by this time next year.

RECOGNITIONS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Foothills Elementary hosted its first annual Rocky Leadership Awards, celebrating students who demonstrated the ROCKY trait of Respect during the first quarter. Families were invited to share in the excitement as each grade level honored students for their kindness, courtesy, and positive attitudes.

On October 17, seventy-seven Montgomery Ridge seventh graders participated in *Leadworthy Local*, a Capturing Kids' Hearts event focused on teamwork and leadership. Students engaged in activities that build confidence, collaboration, and service, made possible by support from the Maryville City Schools Foundation.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bart Stinnett expressed his appreciation to Principal Molly Rice and Assistant Principal Julie Vananda for hosting tonight's board meeting and the thoughtful gifts. He thanked them for providing a strong sense of stability and belonging for students at Sam Houston Elementary and for their genuine care and commitment to the school community.

Isaac Simerly thanked Principal Molly Rice for her presentation and video, expressing appreciation for her message emphasizing teachers' belief in their ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students.

Candy Morgan thanked Principal Molly Rice for highlighting the many ways teachers are making a difference in students' lives. She emphasized the importance of considering how board decisions will impact both students and teachers. She also expressed appreciation to all principals for their leadership and dedication as the district transitions into the second half of the semester following fall break.

Noah Jackson, Student Board Member, thanked Principal Molly Rice and Assistant Principal Julie Vananda for hosting tonight's meeting. As a former Sam Houston student, he expressed gratitude for the school's continued commitment to honoring tradition while adapting to meet the needs of today's students.

Nick Black thanked Principal Molly Rice for the wonderful video and expressed his appreciation for the caring culture at Sam Houston Elementary. He shared his hope that teachers know how valued and appreciated they are for the difference they make each day. Mr. Black remarked that there is truly no substitute for a Maryville K–12 education and seeing the dedication of both teachers and parents makes him proud to be part of MCS. He also reflected on the George Quarles presentation, noting how special it was to honor his outstanding career and lasting impact on Maryville athletics and the community. Mr. Black expressed excitement about the district's ongoing expansion projects and acknowledged that while the upcoming grade transitions may bring some uncertainty, he is confident the process will be well managed and that everyone will ultimately find the right fit.

Julie Elder thanked Principal Molly Rice and expressed her hope that teachers feel the continued support of the Board, noting that this sense of support extends to students, parents, and the entire community. She emphasized that the Board's goal is for teachers to always know they are valued and encouraged in their work. Mrs. Elder shared her excitement about the

upcoming construction at Sam Houston. She also remarked on the special significance of naming “George Quarles Way,” noting that the word *way* feels especially fitting in honoring someone who has inspired and guided so many through his leadership and example.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene