BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for November 17, 2025

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on November 17 at Maryville High School. Members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Candy Morgan, Bart Stinnett, and student representative Noah Jackson. 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 led by 12th grade student Scarlett Rogers.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Heather Hilton shared several highlights from Maryville High School. She began by reflecting on homecoming events that included a parade, pep rally, and a powder puff game. She recognized the homecoming candidates who demonstrated outstanding character and leadership by raising nearly eighty thousand dollars for nonprofit organizations.

Next, Mrs. Hilton highlighted the school's commitment to ensuring that "all paths lead forward" for students, whether they graduate employed, enlisted, or enrolled. She credited teacher Rosanna Giles for bringing local employers to campus during lunch and hosting a non-profit career fair.

She also shared updates on the school's "Focused on the Future" work. With funds from the Maryville City Schools Foundation, the school purchased the book *Reset*, which leadership team members used as they each shadowed a student for an entire school day. This experience helped staff better understand the day in the life of a student. In addition, a new 9–12 Design Team has begun exploring what the student experience, teacher experience, and collaboration should look like for the upcoming grade refiguration.

Mrs. Hilton concluded by expressing her appreciation for the MHS student body and the school's strong traditions.

ADOPT AGENDA

Chair 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.

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 October 20,2025, meeting (Attachment)

2. Approve Maryville High School Winter Guard overnight trip to Dayton, Ohio to compete at WGI Championships – Funding Source: Student fees and fundraising (Attachment A1)
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for PowerSchool renewal - $59,086.10 – Funding Source: Regular Education Software (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Maryville High School Girls Basketball overnight to Nashville, Tennessee for a tournament – Funding Source: Girls Basketball Account (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville Junior High School All-East Freshman Chorus Honorees trip to Cleveland, Tennessee – Funding Source: Chorus Travel (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Maryville High School All-East Honors Chorus overnight to Cleveland, Tennessee for Honors Chorus rehearsal and performance – Funding Source: Chorus Travel (Attachment A5)
7. Approve Maryville High School Cheer Team trip to Orlando, Florida for National Cheer Championship – Funding Source: Cheer Account (Attachment A6)
8. Approve committee members for textbook adoption (Attachment A7)

AGENDA

1. Consider FY26 Budget Amendment No. 1 (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead provided an update on recent audits, noting that both the internal school fund audit and the district audit have been completed with no findings. He expressed appreciation for the outstanding work of Finance Director Sarah Pritchard and the school bookkeepers in maintaining accurate and compliant financial practices.
    c. Finance Director Sarah Pritchard commended the bookkeepers and principals for a clean audit with no findings. She explained that the budget amendment reallocates revenue within the General Purpose fund and does not change the district's bottom line. Major adjustments include updating the ISM carryover to reflect actual expenditures, accounting for the renewed $85,000 State SPED Pre-K grant, and incorporating $115,000 from the Public School Security Grant for the Centegix system and security camera updates. The amendment also captures the final TISA allocations, which were slightly higher than projected. Because the bottom line remains unchanged, City Council approval is not required.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Consider iPad pilot purchase - $92,331.00 – Funding Source: Regular Education/Instructional Equipment (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Assistant Director Josh Oliver reported on the district's ongoing device review for grades 4-8. After gathering feedback, the team identified battery life, durability, performance, warranty reliability, and instructional fit as the key priorities. iPads emerged as a strong option, with strong battery performance and faster replacement times. A team visited Cleveland City Schools to observe iPads in use and gather insights for teacher implementation. Pilot devices are expected to be placed with teachers in January, with a final recommendation brought to the Board in March or April.

c. During the discussion, Candy Morgan expressed her enthusiasm for exploring Apple products. Dr. Winstead noted that selecting a teacher device will be a separate conversation, as the district will later need to determine whether to move forward with a MacBook option. Noah Jackson also shared his support for including a keyboard with the iPad.
d. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead welcomed the students from Mr. Higgins' government class. He shared that, in celebration of National Education Week, the district is treating all students to ice cream. He remarked on the many positive highlights shared by Principal Hilton, including the successful Homecoming parade, and reflected on what has been a strong semester across all schools. Dr. Winstead also expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming work with design teams as the district prepares for grade-level transitions.

RECOGNITIONS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

At Montgomery Ridge, students recently put on an Applachian play titled, *The Heart of the Quilt.* The Daily Times did a feature on the performance to recognize the students' hard work and talent. Another great event happening at MRIS is First Chapter Fridays. On the first Friday of every month, parents and community members are invited to join students for lunch and read the first chapter of a book to get kids excited about reading new stories.

Maryville High School is proud to celebrate the Cheer team, who brought home the State Champion title at their competition. They will be heading to Orlando in the spring to compete nationally.

We also would like to recognize our schools that hosted Veterans Day programs. These events take a lot of planning, and they are truly appreciated, not just by our students and staff, but by our whole community.

Maryville Junior High continues to celebrate positive behavior through its Maryville Merits program. Teachers nominate students who demonstrate strong character, leadership, and effort. Selected students receive candy, a Maryville Merit keychain to hang on their backpacks. This just isn't for students...teachers also receive merits. Fun way to reward both students and staff.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Noah Jackson shared that he has enjoyed gaining a behind-the-scenes perspective and looks forward to seeing the results of the iPad pilot in March.

Issac Simmerly expressed his appreciation for the Homecoming events, noting that the experience was amazing and encouraged Mrs. Hilton to make it a tradition.

Candy Morgan thanked Mrs. Hilton for her efforts to engage students and expressed appreciation for the insights shared from the book *Reset*. She noted the value of having the leadership team experience a day from the student perspective in order to better understand the student experience.

Bart Stinnett commended Mrs. Hilton for a tremendous Homecoming, sharing that he especially enjoyed seeing younger students involved and excited about being part of Maryville. He thanked her for creating such a positive game day experiences.

Nick Black thanked Mrs. Hilton for hosting tonight's board meeting and noted his appreciation for the "follow a student" experience. He also remarked on the strong turnout at the Homecoming parade and the unique atmosphere it created. Mr. Black highlighted the special Friday night traditions, including singing the alma mater and the red lights before the fourth quarter, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the band can continue contributing to the game day environment.

Julie Elder emphasized the importance of the work done by Finance Director Sarah Pritchard and the school bookkeepers, and she asked that the Board's appreciation be shared with them for the audit results. She also thanked Principal Hilton for her commitment to continuous improvement and for fostering strong connections among students and staff.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene