BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for January 20, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on December 15 at John Sevier Elementary 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 1st grade student Hudson Garza and 2nd grade student Nico Nehf.

Coach Nick White expressed his gratitude to the Board for the new track facility, noting that it exceeded expectations. He thanked the Board for its vision and support of both staff and the community. Board members commented that they look forward to seeing the facility in use this spring.

UPDATE FROM JOHN SEVIER

Principal Lucas Vagnier and Assistant Principal Hope Blizzard welcomed the Board and visitors from Leadership Blount and shared highlights focused on building strong connections with students. They emphasized school culture through celebrations of student achievement, staff engagement in classrooms, and creative, student-centered instruction. Fox Trait Awards were highlighted as a key recognition program for students and staff, along with quarterly Fox Star Awards that allow any staff member to celebrate student success. Special events and extracurricular opportunities - including Swim Week, Miles 4 Maryville, Running Club, Gardening Club, Unicycle Club, Drama Club, and the 3rd Grade Christmas Program - were shared, with staff involvement across the school noted and *The Jungle Book* identified as this year's drama production. Fundraising efforts through the Fox Trot and Cookie Dough sales each raised approximately $30,000. Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard concluded by expressing appreciation for the continued support of the School Board.

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

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

1. Approve Minutes of December 15, 2025, meeting (Attachment)
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval for contract with Radon Consultants of East Tennessee for mitigation work at Maryville High School – $75,161.25 - Funding Source: Maintenance & Repair-Building (GP) (Attachment A1)

3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Bowling Team overnight trip to Smyrna, Tennessee for State Bowling Tournament – Funding Source: Athletics (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Maryville High School DECA overnight trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for competition – Funding Source: Perkins Grant and students (Attachment A3)
5. Approve to declare certain items as surplus and authorize their disposal – (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Choir trip to Dollywood – Finding Source: Parents (Attachment A5)
7. Approve Montgomery Ridge and Coulter Grove Intermediate Schools Wind Ensemble trip to Dollywood – Funding Source: parents (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Coulter Grove Intermediate School liaisons overnight to Nashville, Tennessee, for Ace of Shakes – Funding Source: School funds (Attachment A7)

AGENDA

1. Consider changes to Board Policies 1.901 (Charter School Applications), 2.804 (Expenses and Reimbursements), and 6.4081 (Safe Relocation of Students) First reading (Attachment B1)

- Motion to approve from Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
- Dr. Winstead shared recommendations from the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) to ensure compliance with state law. He explained that TSBA annually audits our district policies to confirm continued compliance.
- Nick Black asked when the district last received a charter school application. Dr. Winstead explained that the policy must remain active regardless of application activity.
- Motion approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Director of Schools Dr. Mike Winstead provided several district updates. He shared that favorable winter break weather allowed construction work to progress as planned. Work behind the school remains on track, with underground work expected to be completed by the end of April.

At Fort Craig, the Family Resource Center and the Foundation are expected to move in by the first or second week of February. Renovation work at Sam Houston will begin soon, and a public meeting with COPE is scheduled for February 17 to review plans and discuss anticipated traffic and neighborhood impacts.

The Early Intervention Center remains on schedule for completion in mid-June.

Dr. Winstead also noted that transition meetings are underway. This year's Spotlight Day will look different, with students in grades 4–12 attending at Sevier Heights for the full day. Alumni and current students will be featured, while elementary students will return to their schools for meetings.

He shared that the district's goal is to provide teachers with information by Labor Day so they can make placement decisions, with assignments finalized by Fall Break.

Dr. Winstead concluded by noting that the following week is School Board Appreciation Week, during which each Board member will be hosted by a school. He expressed his gratitude for the Board's time, service, and commitment to Maryville City Schools, emphasizing that their behind-the-scenes work and partnerships make a meaningful difference for students and the community.

RECOGNITIONS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Montgomery Ridge held its in-school spelling bee and would like to congratulate Nicholas Underwood (4th grade) and Hank Russell (7th grade). Nicholas was the Spelling Bee champion, and Hank earned the runner-up spot. Nicholas will complete an online spelling assessment. If he places in the top 50 in the state, he will advance to the spelling bee in Nashville.

Maryville High School would like to thank our community partners who visited the high school during the month of January to speak to seniors on topics designed to boost confidence as they enter the professional world beyond high school. Topics included: interview skills, tricks and tips for job applications, and employability skills.

Congratulations to the 25 MHS band students who earned a coveted spot in the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association's All-State East Senior Clinic. The following 5 students achieved high enough scores to earn a spot in the Tennessee Music Education Association's All-State Clinic: Christian Ashmore, Adam Faller, Caeden Hembree, Matthew Natale, and Allie Simpson).

Sam Houston Elementary welcomed a new Education Support Assistant, Mayson Tibbetts, a Maryville High School senior and graduate of the Teaching as a Profession program. Mayson is serving in a teaching assistant role and has been highly effective in supporting classroom instruction.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Candy Morgan thanked Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard for the presentation and for showcasing the work happening at John Sevier Elementary. She noted the importance of supporting both students' mental well-being and academic success to ensure they feel a sense of belonging and achievement.

Isaac Simerly thanked Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard and shared his appreciation for the clubs, student engagement videos, and the Southern Grace coffee sleeve initiative. He expressed enthusiasm about the facility updates and excitement for School Board Appreciation Week.

Noah Jackson thanked Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard for highlighting John Sevier Elementary and expressed appreciation for School Board Appreciation Week, noting it has been a meaningful experience to serve as the student representative during his senior year.

Bart Stinnett thanked Dr. Winstead for his updates and Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard for their presentation. He praised the extracurricular clubs and emphasized the importance of building student confidence through strong connections, as reflected in the presentation.

Nick Black thanked Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard and shared that he always enjoys seeing how students are engaged and connected. He highlighted the Unicycle Club, expressed excitement about progress on construction at Maryville High School and other facility updates, and noted anticipation of possible winter weather over the weekend. He also shared his wishes for a successful semester.

Julie Elder also thanked Mr. Vagnier and Ms. Blizzard for sharing the intentional efforts to ensure all students feel included and valued. She also noted that the next Board meeting date has been changed to February 23.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:10

Respectfully submitted by Maria Greene