

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING –

August 12, 2025

Members Present: Freda Player – Chair, Berthena Nabaa-McKinney – Vice-chair, Rachael Anne Elrod, Erin O’Hara Block, Cheryl Mayes, TK Fayne, Abigail Tylor, Robert Taylor, Rachael Anne Elrod and Zach Young and Abigail Tylor

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

CONVENE AND ACTION

- A. Call to Order – Freda Player called the meeting to order.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Dr. James Witty.
- C. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to agenda to adopt agenda with changes.

By Zach Young, seconded Cheryl Mayes

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

- D. Freda Player read the following statement on behalf of the Board:
Five years ago, the Board of Education appointed Dr. Adrienne Battle as Superintendent of Metro Nashville Public Schools. She brought nearly two decades of service, deep commitment to public education, and unwavering dedication to Nashville. Her appointment came during a leadership transition, rising demands for better outcomes, and in the same week the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools across the country.

At that time, our district faced urgent challenges—declining test scores, budget shortfalls, and a structure in need of reform. In partnership with Dr. Battle, the Board made difficult but necessary decisions, including closing and consolidating schools, prioritizing strong school leadership, streamlining central office operations, and reimagining the district office as a Support Hub. These decisions were approved by the Board, followed the law, and were taken in good faith to prioritize student learning and long-term sustainability.

Some of those leadership changes became the subject of litigation by former employees. These cases involve decisions from five years ago. Last week, the Board voted unanimously to approve a mutual settlement to avoid the significant cost and disruption of a prolonged legal process. This settlement does not suggest wrongdoing and will be funded from reserves without impacting daily operations.

We want to be clear: the Board fully supports Dr. Battle's leadership. Under her guidance, MNPS has made bold systemic changes through Metro Schools ReimaginED, improved consistency and accountability, and strengthened operations and supports for schools. The results are clear—three consecutive years of Level 5 growth, historic graduation rates, reduced truancy, and national recognition for our post-pandemic recovery.

We have also invested in our educators and staff, raising pay to among the highest in the state, adding paid family leave, increasing early childhood seats, expanding restorative practices, and ensuring every school has a nurse.

Public education will always bring complex challenges, but by staying grounded in our values and united in our purpose, we will continue to move forward—building a stronger, more equitable public school system for every student we serve.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. TCAP Update

Core Tenets: 3. Create and Support Engaging, Rigorous, and Personalized Learning Experiences for All Students; 4. Identify and Eliminate Inequities

B. Back to School Update

Core Tenets: 1. Re-envision central office as a support hub; 3. Create and Support Engaging, Rigorous, and Personalized Learning Experiences for All Students; 4. Identify and Eliminate Inequities

C. MNPS ReimaginED Update

Core Tenets: 1. Re-envision central office as a support hub; 2. Empower and equip leaders at all levels; 3. Create and Support Engaging, Rigorous, and Personalized Learning Experiences for All Students; 4. Identify and Eliminate Inequities

LEGAL REPORT

A. Wally Dietz gave a brief report on the resonant legal settlement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Larencia Muse – She addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement.

B. Kimberlee Moore - She addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement.

C. Karla McAllister - She addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement.

D. Cheyenne Cutts - She addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement.

E. Elizabeth Buckhanon - She addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement.

F. Theodore Wills - He addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement.

G. Melissa Spradlin - She addressed the Board concerning Book em'.

H. Christopher Garner - She addressed the Board concerning the success of the district.

I. Angelica Brooks-James - She addressed the Board concerning the success of the district.

J. Joe Bond - He addressed the Board concerning the success of the district.

K. Norman Merrifeld - He addressed the Board concerning the success of the district and legal settlement.

L. Kenya Stinson-Sanders

M. Marcus Barnes - He addressed the Board concerning the success of the district.

N. Kisha Cox - She addressed the Board concerning the success of the district.

- O. Polly Cauthen - She addressed the Board concerning the success of the district.
- P. Sharon Gentry - She addressed the Board concerning the legal settlement and the success of the district.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Rachael Anne Elrod gave a brief Governance Committee update.

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Consent

- a. **Minutes – 7.22.2025 – Regular Meeting**
- b. **Awarding of Purchases and Contracts**
 - 1. **Agile Sports Technologies, Inc. dba Hudl**
 - 2. **Batteries Plus Holding Corp dba Batteries Plus LLC**
 - 3. **CMS Uniforms and Equipment, Inc.**
 - 4. **Fusion Alarms**
 - 5. **Jarrett Fire Protection, LLC**
 - 6. **Lowe's Companies Inc dba Lowe's Home Centers, LLC**
 - 7. **Playworld Preferred**
- c. **Policies 1.900 Charter School Authorizing Principles, 1.901 Charter School Applications, 1.902 Charter School Agreements, 1.903 Charter School Oversight, 1.904 Charter School Intervention, 1.905 Charter School Renewal, 1.906 Charter School Revocation, 2.800 Expenditure of Funds, 4.100 Instructional Program, 5.500 Discrimination/Harassment, 6.304 Student Discrimination Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation, 6.312 Use of Personal Communication Devices and Electronic Devices**
- d. **MNEA Memorandum of Understanding Revisions**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda.
By Cheryl Mayes, seconded TK Fayne
Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)**

BOARD REPORTS

A. There were no Board Reports

Freda Player adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

David G. Sevier

David G. Sevier
Board Secretary

Freda Player
Board Chair

Date