

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
November 10, 2015

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
Roll Call	Present: Dr. Jo Ann Brannon Amy Frogge Tyese Hunter Dr. Sharon Gentry, Chair Elissa Kim Mary Pierce Will Pinkston Anna Shepherd, Vice-Chair (left at 6:00 p.m.) Jill Speering Chris Henson, Interim Director of Schools Dr. Gentry called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.	
Pledge of Allegiance	Led by Councilman Withers, District 6.	
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS		
Teacher Advisory Council	Mr. Henson introduced members of his newly formed Teacher Advisory Council to the Board.	
Milken Educator Award	Mr. Henson announced that Misty Ayres-Miranda, a Nashville School of the Arts teacher, won the Milken Educator Award. Ms. Ayres-Miranda will be honored at an upcoming Board meeting.	
AND THE GOOD NEWS IS...		
Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach – Siemens Semifinalists	Two students from the Center for Math and Science at Vanderbilt, finalists in the National Siemens Competition, presented a summary of their projects to the Board.	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION		
Amanda Kail – Testing	Ms. Kail addressed the Board concerning testing. She asked the Board to monitor the amount of tests given in MNPS.	
Adam Knight – Overtesting and its Effect in the Classroom	Mr. Knight addressed the Board concerning overtesting. He asked the Board to eliminate High Stakes Testing in the district.	
Sherrie Martin – The Negative Impact of Excessive Testing and Lack of Teacher Planning	Ms. Martin addressed the Board concerning the impact of testing. Ms. Martin asked the Board to decrease the amount of testing within the district to allow teachers to actually “teach” students.	
Suzanne Diaz – Testing	Ms. Diaz addressed the Board on how testing has a negative impact on students. She asked the Board to stop requiring EL students to take standardized tests.	

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• Catherine Pratt – Testing	Ms. Pratt addressed the Board on testing. She asked the Board to reconsider how the district evaluates students.	
• Erick Huth – Teacher Retention	Dr. Huth addressed the Board concerning teacher retention. He asked the Board to consider increasing teacher planning time, professional development, substitutes for teachers, and other topics.	
• Seth Harris – The Effects of Testing on Students	Mr. Harris addressed the Board concerning the effects of testing on students. He asked the Board to take action against testing requirements for students.	
• Mary Holden – Equity and Valuing Teachers	Ms. Holden addressed the Board concerning equity and valuing teachers. She asked the Board to work to improve the culture of fear within the district, and decrease student testing and teacher mandates.	
• Molly Handler – Overtesting	Ms. Handler addressed the Board concerning overtesting. She asked the Board to remove standards-based learning and testing from the district.	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
• Consent Agenda	Ms. Speering pulled V-A-1-h-(10) – STEM Prep Academy from the consent agenda. Ms. Shepherd read the following consent agenda: V-A-1-a- Approval of Minutes – 06/23/15 and 07/23/15 – Regular Meeting; V-A-1-b- Recommended Award of Contract for Bransford Health Center – Orion Building Corporation; V-A-1-c- Recommended Approval of Supplement #2 for Ruby Major Elementary School Additions – Gilbert McLaughlin Casella, Architects; V-A-1-d- Recommended Approval of Change Order #2 for Smith Springs Elementary School – Bell & Associates Construction, L.P.; V-A-1-e- Recommended Approval of Request #1 for Large Scope Projects (\$100,000 and above) at Various Schools (Hunters Lane High School Foundation Repair) – Carter Group, LLC; V-A-1-f- Recommended Approval of Request #1 for Large Scope Projects (\$100,000 and above) at Various Schools (Smith Springs Elementary School Teachers Lockable Wardrobe Cabinets) – Orion Building Corporation; V-A-1-g- Recommended Approval of Request #33 for District-wide Maintenance, Repairs, and General Construction (Julia Green Soccer Field) - Southland Constructors, LLC; V-A-1-h- Awarding of Purchases and Contracts (1) Apple, Inc., (2) Awardees from MNPS Invitation to Bid (ITB) #16-8 for Cheer Uniforms, (3) Cigna-HealthSpring, (4) Family and Children’s Services, (5) Genesis Learning	

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Consent Agenda – continued	Centers, (6) Guy Brown Interiors LLC, (7) Nashville Machine Elevator Co., (8) PENCIL Foundation, (9) RIVS Digital Interviews; V-A-1-i- Legal Settlement Claim C-35174 (\$20,000); V-A-1-j- Legal Settlement Claim (\$27,500); V-A-1-k- Legal Settlement Claim (\$22,760). Ms. Shepherd made the motion to approve the consent agenda as read. Dr. Brannon seconded. ~~Ms. Speering made a motion to defer Item V-A-1-h - (10) STEM Prep Academy contract. Ms. Frogge seconded. Ms. Speering withdrew her motion.~~ Mr. Pinkston made a motion to approve Item V-A-1-h - (10) STEM Prep Academy contract. Ms. Frogge seconded. Ms. Speering stated that she did not support the contract because it will send 100 EL students to STEM Prep Academy instead of utilizing the MNPS EL programs and resources. Mr. Henson asked Dr. Steele and Dr. McGraner to address the contract. Dr. Steele stated that the Mayor allocated funding for STEM Prep Academy to renovate their building to accommodate 100 EL students for a model program. This program would be the start of a three – year model plan that includes, STEM Prep Academy, Overton High School, and McMurray Middle Prep. The contract on the agenda tonight would allow STEM Prep Academy the permission to expand up to 100 students. Dr. McGraner gave additional background about the contract and model program. Ms. Shepherd asked, how are the students identified for the program? Dr. McGraner said, those whose score is the lowest on the language assessment will be invited to participate in the program. Mr. Pinkston said, he would like the Board to reconsider the process of this initiative coming to the Board. Ms. Frogge said, who will be managing the program? Dr. McGraner said teachers from STEM will be used at the STEM location. Ms. Frogge asked, how long will the students remain in the program. Dr. McGraner said, once the students reach language proficiency they can exit the program. Dr. Gentry said, STEM Prep Academy is involved in the accolades and successes MNPS has experienced with our EL population. Ms. Speering asked, who will be over	VOTE: 9-0 – Unanimous VOTE: 9-0 – Unanimous

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Consent Agenda – continued	the recruitment? Dr. McGraner said, she hoped to collaborate with the EL Department. Dr. Steele said, STEM Prep will be over the recruitment of students.	
KIPP Nashville Primary Charter School	Mr. Pinkston made a motion to defer approval of KIPP Nashville Primary Charter School based upon the complexity of the approval. Ms. Speering seconded. Ms. Harkey reminded the Board that the 30-day timeline for approval is November 23rd. Mr. Pinkston stated that he believed that actions of the Tennessee State Board of Education are illegal. There is a movement within Tennessee to charterize public schools. Ms. Frogge said, KIPP has shown that they do not respect the decision of the Board to not approve their charter by appealing the decision to the State. The State should be held accountable to funding KIPP, not MNPS. Ms. Speering said that KIPP was authorized by the State and should be placed under the jurisdiction of the State. Ms. Kim said, consistently KIPP has been exceling in MNPS. What matters is that children are educated, and KIPP has been doing just that. Dr. Gentry said, KIPP did nothing more than follow “the process” when KIPP decided to appeal the Board’s denial to the State Board of Education. Dr. Gentry said, she disagrees with the “law” that allows charters who are denied by the MNPS Board to appeal to the State Board of Education after the MNPS Board has made a decision. Ms. Pierce said that she hopes that KIPP’s students will not be treated differently if the school is opened. Ms. Kim made a motion to approve KIPP Nashville Primary Charter School. Ms. Pierce seconded.	VOTE: (4-4) No – Hunter, Brannon, Pierce, Kim. Yes – Speering, Pinkston, Frogge, Gentry. VOTE: (4-4) No – Speering, Pinkston, Frogge, Gentry. Yes – Hunter, Brannon, Pierce, Kim
KIPP Nashville Middle Charter School	Ms. Pierce made a motion to approve KIPP Nashville Middle Charter School.	VOTE: (4-4) No – Speering, Pinkston, Frogge, Gentry. Yes – Hunter, Brannon, Pierce, Kim

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	REPORTS	
B. Committee Reports 1. Teaching and Learning	Ms. Speering presented a Teaching and Learning report. She stated that the committee met and discussed High Stakes Testing.	
C. Board Chairman's Report 1. Dashboard – District and Cluster Data	Dr. Gentry gave a brief dashboard update.	
• Board Retreat	Dr. Gentry announced that she is working with Dr. Casserly from the CGCS to schedule a retreat with the Board.	
2. Announcements • Hillwood High School Meetings	Ms. Frogge announced the following meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the future of Hillwood High School: November 12th at Charlotte Park Elementary, November 16th at Hillwood High School, and November 23rd at John Early Magnet School.	
• High Stakes Testing	Ms. Frogge thanked the teachers and community members who spoke during Public Participation about testing. She stated that changes needed to be made at the state level in order to see the needed changes.	
• Limitless Libraries and Nashville Public Library	Ms. Pierce announced that Limitless Libraries and Nashville Public Library have awarded J.T. Moore Middle School and Harris-Hillman Special Education funding to make improvements to their library spaces.	
• Harris-Hillman Special Education 40 th Anniversary Celebration	Ms. Pierce announced that she and Mr. Henson attended the Harris-Hillman Special Education 40th Anniversary Celebration.	
• Principal for the Day	Ms. Pierce announced that she will be Principal for the Day at Harris- Hillman Special Education on the 16 th .	
• Country Music Association Donation	Mr. Pinkston read Ms. Shepherd's announcements: Ms. Shepherd thanked the Country Music Association for their donation of \$1 million to the Music Makes Us Program.	
• Old Hickory Chamber of Commerce	Ms. Shepherd thanked Dr. Chagas and Dr. Armstrong for presenting to the Old Hickory Chamber of Commerce.	
• McGavock High School	Ms. Shepherd congratulated the McGavock High School football team for winning a post-season game.	
• Smith Springs Elementary School	Mr. Pinkston thanked the Administration for helping him update the Smith Springs Elementary School community.	
• Food, Research and Action Center	Mr. Pinkston announced that he participated in a webinar that was conducted by the Food, Research and Action Center which is a leading advocate for the	

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	district's Universal Meals Program.	
Chelsea Clinton Visit	Ms. Speering announced that Chelsea Clinton will be at J.T. Moore Middle School on November 11 th .	
Hunters Lane High School	Ms. Speering announced that Hunters Lane High School received two recognitions for their academies at the National Career Academy Coalition.	
Firestone Complete Auto Care Center	Ms. Speering announced that a team from Japan visited the Firestone Complete Auto Care Center at Maplewood on November 10 th .	
Teaching and Learning Committee	Ms. Speering announced that a Teaching and Learning Committee meeting will be held on November 17 th . Topic: New Leader Process and Evaluation for New Principals.	
Veterans Day	Dr. Brannon, in honor of Veterans Day, thanked veterans for their service.	
ACT	Ms. Hunter announced that final registration for the December ACT is November 20 th .	
Big Picture High School	Dr. Gentry announced that Big Picture High School received a visit from Dr. Mayim Bialik from the television show The Big Bang Theory.	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
Student Assessment Calendar		
Transportation Update		
Substitute Teachers Update		
Upcoming Committee Meetings		
Adjournment	Ms. Frogge adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.	
Signatures	 Chris M. Henson Sharon Dixon Gentry Date Board Secretary Board Chair	