BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for March 23, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23 at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School. Board members present were Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Bart Stinnett, Candy Morgan, and student representative Noah Jackson. Vice Chair Nick Black called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by 7th grade student Bella Morris.

UPDATE FROM MONTGOMERY RIDGE INTERMEDIATE

Principal Kevin Myers reported on MRIS's start to the school year, highlighting teacher "Process Champions" through Capturing Kids' Hearts. He shared this year's theme of "Getting Back to the Basics, emphasizing the core strengths of MRIS. He shared staff engagement initiatives such as Eagle Bucks, where faculty recognize one another for going above and beyond. Leadworthy students Bella Morris, Brooks McMurray, Andrew Sexton, and Angela Gupton shared the many opportunities for students to engage in service through programs at MRIS.

UPDATE FROM STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED SCORE

Maryville High School Counselor Jennifer Abernathy shared her experience accompanying students Alexandra Autry, Andy Ni, Asher Park, and Elizabeth Tisdale to the Student Congress on Policies in Education (SCOPE) in Nashville. During the event, students gained insight into how school boards operate and participated in discussions and mock debates with peers from across the state to explore how educational policies are developed and implemented.

The students reflected on the value of the experience, noting the opportunity to consider diverse perspectives and gain new insights into educational policy and leadership.

Dr. Winstead presented each student with a certificate from the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) and expressed appreciation for their representation of Maryville High School and Maryville City Schools.

ADOPT AGENDA

Nick Black asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Isaac Simerly moved to adopt, and a second came from Candy Morgan. The motion was adopted unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made by the public on agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Isaac Simerly made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Bart Stinnett seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of February 23, 2026, meeting (Attachment)
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Radon Consultants of East Tennessee for mitigation work at Maryville High School - $32,697.85 – Funding Source: Maintenance & Repair-Building (Attachment A1)
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Key Club overnight to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for the District Convention – Funding Source: Kiwanis Club of Maryville and Maryville High School Key Club (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Mock Trial Team overnight to Nashville, Tennessee for competition – Funding Source: Donations (Attachment A3)
5. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Symphonic Band overnight to Nashville, Tennessee – Funding Source: MHS Band Booster and fundraising (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Maryville High School Tennis Team overnight to Hendersonville, Tennessee to compete in Tennis Invitation – Funding Source: parents (Attachment A5)
7. Approve the certification of Adoption for Wellness textbooks (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Maryville Junior High School trip to Dollywood – Funding Source: students (Attachment A7)

AGENDA

1. Consider changes to Board Policy 5.303 – Personal and Professional Leave – first reading (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained current practice regarding certified and classified employee personal days. The proposed revision will allow employees to carry over up to five personal days annually, with any unused personal days coverting to sick leave upon separation from the district.
    c. Motion was approved unanimously.
2. Consider three-year contract renewal from Sidepath for VMWare Cloud Foundation- $48,447.36 -Funding Source: Technology/Software (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead noted that contract renewals are typically included on the consent agenda but chose to pull this item for brief discussion due to a $13,000 price increase following the company's recent acquisition. He explained that the contract supports virtual server infrastructure, allowing multiple servers to operate on a single piece of hardware rather than maintaining separate systems. The agreement is for a three-year term.
    c. Motion was approved unanimously.
3. Consider iPad purchases from Apple – $1,697,229.50 - Funding Source: Regular Instruction-Equipment (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that a dedicated funding line was established with the launch of iReach over a decade ago. He expressed enthusiasm for the proposed purchase, noting that it represents the first significant hardware upgrade since 2014.
    c. Assistant Director Josh Oliver outlined the device selection process, which included vendor presentations and a site visit by a teacher committee to observe iPad use in another district. iPads were also piloted at the intermediate and junior high levels, with positive feedback from students and staff. He noted that iPads have a significantly lower breakage rate in comparable districts (2–3%) compared to the district's current Lenovo

devices (30–40%), and that AppleCare allows for fast repairs and replacements. The proposed rollout includes iPads for students in grades 3–8 with a case, stand, and keyboard, while students in grades K–2 will receive iPads without keyboards. Teachers will also be provided with a device and Apple TV for classroom use.

   d. Dr. Winstead added that discussions will begin next year regarding device replacement for grades 9–12, followed by teacher devices. He also noted that Apple will provide training in May, with additional iReach training sessions scheduled for July.
   e. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. Consider purchase of textbooks for Wellness from Goodheart-Willcox Publisher- $57,204.50 - Funding Source: Textbooks (Attachment B4)
   a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Bart Stinnett.
   b. Dr. Winstead explained that textbook adoption follows an eight-year cycle set by the state. This year's adoption was for Physical Education, Wellness, and Health. Teachers reviewed state-approved options and selected a Wellness curriculum for purchase. He noted that next year's adoption cycle for Social Studies will cost significantly more.
   c. Motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead expressed hope that everyone had an enjoyable spring break and shared that significant progress was made during the break on both the high school project and the EIC renovation.

He reported that contracts are in place for the Sam Houston project with Merit, and the team will meet later this week to finalize details and issue a notice to proceed.

Dr. Winstead also noted that a school calendar survey for the 2027–2028 school year was released, receiving a strong initial response.

He added that a draft of the budget is in progress, with property and sales tax figures expected later in the week.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville High School: Congratulations to the Mock Trial Team for competing at state over the weekend. A special congratulations goes to Chis Coker for winning first place for best defense witness award.

Foothills Elementary: FHE will host Muffins in the Morning this week, which will include a Q&A session with Mrs. Bosco and Mr. Hensley.

March 24 is Elementary Baseball Night hosted by the MHS Baseball Team. Elementary students get in free with a paid adult. Highlights will include a mascot race, competition between schools, admins throwing out the first pitch, and the National Anthem performed by SHE students.

One Book Blitz wrapped up at the end of February, and we would like to thank all of the many community sponsors who make this event possible for our three school districts. We would especially like to recognize the Parkway Drive In for opening two months early to show the movie to students and their families. On the first night, they had over 1,000 people in attendance.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Noah Jackson expressed appreciation to Mr. Myers and the students for their presentation. He also recognized Mrs. Abernathy and the students who attended SCOPE for representing Maryville City Schools.

Bart Stinnett thanked Mr. Myers and the students for a great presentation. He also shared appreciation for Mrs. Abernathy and asked that gratitude be passed along to the students for sharing their SCOPE experience. Mr. Stinnett encouraged everyone to make the most of the final nine weeks of the school year.

Candy Morgan also thanked Mr. Myers for hosting tonight's meeting and for his leadership at MRIS, including his strong focus on students and efforts to support and celebrate staff. She also expressed appreciation to Mrs. Abernathy and the students who attended SCOPE, sharing that this event is an important opportunity for students.

Isaac Simerly expressed appreciation to Mr. Myers for hosting and highlighting opportunities at MRIS. He also commended the students for being well-spoken and prepared. Mr. Simerly also recognized Mrs. Abernathy and the students from MHS for sharing their SCOPE experience. He inquired about the timeline for the high school roof project, with Dr. Winstead noting he would follow up. Mr. Simerly concluded by expressing gratitude for the Maryville community.

Nick Black thanked Mr. Myers for hosting and complimented the students on their presentation. He highlighted the value of programs such as Mock Trial, expressing his appreciation for Candy Garner at the Blount County Public Defender's Office. Mr. Black noted that spring break came at a good time and encouraged a strong finish to the fourth quarter. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the students who participated in SCOPE, calling it a valuable learning experience.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:18
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene