BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for April 20, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20 at Maryville Junior High School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Bart Stinnett, Candy Morgan, and student representative McKenzie Kovatch. Chair Julie Elder 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 9th grade student Sarah Stoltenberg.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE JUNIOR HIGH

Principal David Combs centered his school update on the theme of "building great people to do extraordinary things" and featured students from a variety of courses and programs, with culinary students preparing and serving refreshments and orchestra students playing for attendees as they entered.

Students from the Teaching as a Profession pathway presented first and shared about the opportunities available for students who want to pursue future careers as educators. Students highlighted the opportunities with Pellissippi State Community Colleges and partnering with MCS elementary schools.

The construction program followed, with Emmit Forsythe, Samuel Pagoda, and Ben Carr demonstrating a table they designed and built that converts from a standard-height table to a coffee table. They explained the project's origin as a fundraiser, outlined the total cost of $47.32, and discussed challenges encountered during construction. Lyla Mullin also presented a custom cutting board she created as a gift, highlighting the design process and the integration of art, math, and problem-solving, as well as the confidence gained through hands-on work.

Baylor Hall, representing the Principles of Engineering course, presented a self-driving rover developed through the mechatronics program. He described the use of laser cutting for the base, along with wiring, electronics, and power distribution. He also shared his experience on the robotics team, which placed 5th out of 48 teams nationwide, and expressed appreciation to Dr. Hebert for his instruction.

Mr. Combs concluded by emphasizing the importance of allowing students space to grow and lead. He highlighted the innovative work and accomplishments taking place at Maryville Junior High School.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

Samantha Astor: Teacher Appreciation

Ms. Astor expressed her appreciation for the opportunities and experiences her children have received during their time in Maryville City Schools. She thanked the teachers, administrators, and Board members for their dedication and service.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Approve Minutes of March 23, 2026, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve changes to Board Policy 5.303 – Personal and Professional Leave – second reading (Attachment A1)
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Mayville High School DECA overnight trip to Atlanta, Georgia – Funding Source: Students/Perkins Grant (Attachment A2)
4. Approve to declare certain items as surplus and authorize their disposal (Attachment A3)
5. Ratify Executive Committee approval for MSA renewal for Central Office copiers – Funding Source: Regular Instruction Supplies and Materials (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Newsela Renewal - $43,142.38 – Funding Source: Summer School Funds (Attachment A5)
7. Approve Imagine Learning renewal - $39,825.00 – Funding Source: Regular Educational Software (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Microsoft licensing renewal – $49,676.65 Funding Source: Technology Software (Attachment A7)
9. Approve application and subsequent amendments to the FY27 Consolidated Applicatioin for IDEA/ESEA

AGENDA

1. Consider quote from Central Technologies, Inc for cameras/EIC Renovations - $30,075.91 – Funding Source: Technology Other Equipment (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Josh Oliver, Assistant Director of Schools, provided an update on the EIC renovations, noting that all interior walls have been removed as part of the project. As a result of these structural changes, new cameras are required, and the current quote includes the installation and setup of a new camera system.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Consider quote from Central Technologies, Inc for Avigilon Server, and upgrade licenses for EIC/John Sevier Elementary School - $32,466.96 – Funding Source: Technology Other Equipment (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Josh Oliver explained that the server is the largest cost of the project. Previously, John Sevier Elementary and Maryville Academy shared a single server to operate their camera systems. With the camera upgrades requiring increased storage capacity, the decision was made to purchase one larger server, rather than two separate systems, to serve both schools and provide expanded storage for JSE in a more cost-effective manner.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider quote from Playworld for EIC playground pieces and rubber flooring - $77,331.82 – Funding Source: Federal General Purpose, Regular Capital Outlay: Building Improvements (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Isaac Simerly.

b. The proposed playground for the EIC will serve students ages 2–4. The area was previously a concrete pad with a basketball goal. The district is working with Playworld to design an age-appropriate playground while maintaining fiscal responsibility.
c. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Consider changes on first reading of Board Policy 1.404 (Appeals to and Appearances Before the Board) and 6.411 (Student Wellness) (Attachment B4)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Mike presented updates to Policy 1.404 (Public Comments), noting the addition of language specifying that comments must be limited to agenda items or matters germane to the Board's jurisdiction.
    He also reviewed updates to the Wellness Policy, which were prompted by guidance from TSBA and findings from a recent state cafeteria review. While the district performed well overall, it was noted that certain practices were not clearly reflected in board policy. The policy has since been updated to align with current practices and ensure compliance.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Consider purchase of 460 MacBook Neo laptops from Apple - $289,520.00 – Funding Source: Regular Instruction – Equipment (Attachment B5)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead shared that the district is implementing an early adoption plan to address an upcoming device shortage. While current laptops still have one year of use remaining, the district is approximately 200 devices short for next year. As a solution, the district proposes purchasing a MacBook Neo for 10th grade students, rather than refurbished laptops. The proposal includes a four-year agreement, with devices on a three-year replacement cycle. Each device costs $499, with an additional $150 for AppleCare, which covers repairs and replacements over the four-year period. At the end of the cycle, devices have a projected buyback value of $180, or $210 if replaced on a three-year cycle. Staff training will also be provided to support implementation.
    c. Nick Black commented that his 9th-grade student is very excited about the purchase of MacBooks. He noted that the plan is a positive step for the system, is fiscally responsible, and represents an upgrade in technology for students.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead shared that he had hoped to provide more detailed budget information; however, the district has not yet received the weighted full-time equivalent figures from the state. This is later than usual, as those numbers are typically available prior to April. The state budget has been approved, and finalized figures are expected within the next one to two weeks.

Regarding current projects, he noted that Cedar Street at the high school is currently closed and will remain closed for approximately one week. This is expected to be the final phase impacting traffic flow, and the project remains on schedule for completion by graduation. While all paving may not be finished by that time, progress will allow access in that area.

Dr. Winstead also shared that hiring, scheduling, testing, and spring sports are all taking place over the next several weeks, making this an especially busy and exciting time across the district.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

We are proud to recognize the Maryville High School Symphonic Band, along with Jonathan Leichman and Sean Copeland, for performing at the Tennessee Music Education Association Professional Development Music Conference. To be selected is a huge honor for student musicians across the state.

Congratulations to the 2026 Turnaround Award Recipients Pax Laduke and Jose Cambron.

Congratulations to our math students who were selected to compete against other local schools at the TMTA mathematics competition. We are proud of their performance and would like to recognize the following students:

Algebra 1:
1st Place: Ethan Martin
3rd Place: Mia Goto

Geometry:
1st Place: Mei Mizokami
2nd Place: Dennis Cornwell

Algebra 2:
1st Place: Ryan Lingard
2nd Place: Karl James

Statistics:
2nd Place: Will Elder
3rd Place: Isaac Dimick & Santiago Martin-Benitez

Precalculus:
2nd Place: Andy Ni
3rd Place: Ananya Madduri

Calculus:
1st Place: Matthew Natale
3rd Place: Rebecca Boone

Coulter Grove would like to recognize their student liaisons as they wrap up this year's Ace of Shakes competition. Our top four finalists traveled to Nashville, meeting with state leaders after completing rounds in public speaking, interviews, and media scenarios.

Finalists: Kaitlin Ramsey (5th), Lily O'Hara (6th), Scout Jackson (7th), and Hadley Foulk (7th).

Congratulations to our 2026 winner, Hadley Foulk!

Congratulations to both Coulter Grove and Montgomery Ridge for being recognized at Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase Schools.

MRIS would like to recognize a meaningful service project connected to our reading of *A Long Walk to Water*. Students participated in a "Walk for Water," raising awareness and money to support clean water access around the world. An additional $10,000 donation was secured by student Ashley Pfeiffer.

Athletics:

Boys Tennis completes their regular season with 9-0 wins over Karns and Lenoir City. The boys went 16-1 on the season, one of the best in MHS history.

Girls Tennis completes their regular season with 9-0 wins over Karns and Lenoir City. The girls went 13-4 on the season and will be challenging to beat in the post season.

Softball wrapped up district play by being crowned regular season DISTRICT CHAMPIONS after beating WB 5-1.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Julie Elder Recongized McKenzie Kovatch for her service as Student School Board Member Alternate and presented her with a small gift and certificate.

McKenzie Kovatch shared that she appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from students at MJHS. She reflected on her experience with the TAP program, noting that it was not available to freshmen when she began. She also appreciated hearing from a member of the community about how Maryville City Schools has impacted her families, describing these reflections as a meaningful reminder of the impact educators make.

Following graduation, McKenzie plans to attend Pellissippi State Community College for one year before transferring to University of Tennessee, Knoxville to pursue both a bachelor's and master's degree in education.

Isaac Simerly expressed appreciation to McKenzie for her service. He also thanked Ms. Astor for her kind remarks regarding teachers and administrators and their impact. He concluded by thanking Mr. Combs for sharing highlights of MJHS and the positive work taking place.

Bart Stinnett thanked Mr. Combs for hosting and for providing the opportunity to hear from students. He noted that the students were not only talented but also very well spoken. He also thanked Ms. Astor for her kind remarks, stating that they reflect what Maryville City Schools is all about, and expressed

appreciation to the principals for their work. He concluded by noting that at the next meeting, his own son will be a Maryville High School graduate.

Candy Morgan thanked Mr. Combs for hosting and expressed appreciation for the theme of "building great people to do extraordinary things." She noted the importance of teaching students and then allowing them the space to grow and thanked the staff for providing a nurturing environment during an important stage in students' lives. She also recognized the assistant principals and complimented the culinary students on the food. Additionally, she thanked Ms. Astor for attending and noted that she will be missed in the community.

Nick Black thanked Mr. Combs for hosting and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear from a variety of student groups. He also thanked McKenzie for her service. Mr. Black thanked the Daily Times and County Commission for honoring outstanding ACT performers. He thanked Ms. Astor for her remarks, noting that she effectively captured the appreciation for teachers and administrators. He added that Maryville City Schools is fortunate to have strong family partnerships, which contribute to high levels of student success, and thanked families for their support in their children's education. Mr. Black concluded by expressing excitement about finishing the school year strong and offering encouragement to students and staff as they continue state testing.

Julie Elder thanked everyone for a great week and adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:14
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene