

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING –

April 28, 2026

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

Student Members Present: Ava Davash, Hannah Nguyen

Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.

CONVENE AND ACTION

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

Motion to agenda to adopt agenda as listed

By Berthena Nabaa-McKinney, seconded by Cheryl Mayes

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Music City High Documentary Series – The Board and Dr. Battle highlighted the Docu Series.
- B. Sylvan Park Elementary School State Champion Chess Team – The Board and Dr. Battle recognized the Chess team.
- C. Class of 2026 Valedictorians and Salutatorians – The Board and Dr. Battle recognized the Vals and Sals.
- D. James Lawson High School Girls’ 4x100 and 4x200 Record-Breaking Relay Teams – The Board and Dr. Battle recognized the track team.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Dr. Battle and Staff presented an MNPS ReImaginED Update: on Core Tenets: Re-envision central office as a support hub, Empower and equip leaders at all levels. Create and support engaging, rigorous, and personalized learning experiences for all students and Identify and eliminate inequities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Burrus Cox – Addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter school application.
- B. Jim Leckrone - Addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter school application.
- C. Kevin Dyson - Addressed the Board concerning The Music City Academy charter school application.
- D. Russel McBryde - Addressed the Board concerning The Music City Academy charter school application.
- E. Adolpho Birch – Addressed the Board concerning The Music City Academy charter school application.
- F. Demetria Giles – Addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter school application.
- G. Sparkle Johnson – Addressed the Board concerning The Music City Academy charter school application.
- H. Viva Price – Addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter school application.
- I. Leigh Ann Danzey-Bussell - Addressed the Board concerning The Music City Academy charter school application.
- J. Emily Sandoval – Addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter school application.
- K. Efkan Akbarov – Addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter school application.
- L. Jared Pinagrote – Addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter school application.
- M. Arlene Martin Norman – Addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter school application.
- N. Sanjar Ziyaeiev – Addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter school application.

- O. Jasmine Rabia Sarikaya – Addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter school application.
- P. Mark North – Addressed the Board concerning the success of MNPS Athletics.

BOARD REPORTS

A. Student Board Member Report – Ava Davash gave the following report
Report Concentration: Identify and Eliminate Inequities
Nashville School of the Arts (NSA) : Students from the NSA have arisen with concerns of having a lack of extracurriculars, higher learning opportunities, and being underfunded for certain conservatories. Students have attempted to create extracurriculars for students interested in topics beyond the arts, such as Model United Nations, but have not been successful to establishing them due to lack of support. Students have also experienced a lack of AP classes and other advanced courses

Students within the visual arts and theater conservatory have had to pay for many materials out of pocket, such as professional paint, sets, props, and costumes.

Many of these materials both teachers and students cannot afford out of pocket. Student Spotlight: Music City High: A Celebration of the Arts in Nashville Public Schools. The first episode of the three-part documentary highlights the Cane Ridge Rhythmic Ravens Marching Band in their two weeks of intense summer training.

The second episode highlights Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School where we follow Hunter, who is a digital artist, athlete, and engineer and carries a remarkable legacy in the Hume-Fogg Community. As her grandmother taught visual art and her grandfather was a school counselor in MNPS. Hunter is now writing her own chapter, blending art and engineering to make a lasting impact on those around her.

Yesterday, the final episode of the three-part documentary premiered. At Warner Arts Magnet Elementary, music teacher Chris Blackmon wrote an original musical from scratch and brought it to life.

Congratulations to Dr. Battle, The Moving Picture Boys, the Visual and Performing Arts team, led by Franklin Willis, for the successful release of the three-part documentary series. Additionally, Congratulations and thank you to the students who were highlighted in the documentary for your incredible dedication to the arts within Metro Nashville Public Schools and trusting us to tell all your stories.

Board Recommendations:

Continue to support schools and students within art programs

Ensure students have access to the supplies they need for their specific studies

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

A. Actions

1. Consent

a. Minutes – 4/14/2026– Regular Meeting

b. Awarding of Purchases and Contracts

1. Carter Group, LLC

2. Education Resource Strategies, Inc

3. Lessonspace, Inc. dba Code4Kids

4. Office Furniture and Related Services

5. Quorum Group LLC dba Takeform

6. Sown to Grow, Inc.

7. UTJ Holdco, Inc. dba Teaching Strategies

8. Vanderbilt University

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

By Zach Young, seconded TK Fayne

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

2. New Start Charter School Applications

Motion to deny the Nashville School of Excellence Charter Application.

By Erin O'Hara Block, seconded Zach Young

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

Motion to deny The Empowerment Academy Charter Application.

By Erin O'Hara Block, seconded Berthena Nabaa-Mckinney

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

Motion to deny The Gate School Charter Application.

By Rachael Anne Elrod, seconded by Abigail Tylor

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

Motion to deny The Music City Academy Charter School.

By Rachael Anne Elrod, seconded by Abigail Tylor

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

Freda Player adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

David G. Sevier

David G. Sevier
Board Secretary

Freda Player
Board Chair

Date