BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for May 18, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18 at the Maryville City Schools District Office. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Bart Stinnett, Candy Morgan, and student representative Noah Jackson. 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.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Approve Minutes of April 20, 2026, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve changes to Board Policy 1.404 and 6.411 – second reading (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville High School Chorale overnight to Camp-Ba-Yo-Ca in Sevierville, Tennessee – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Science Club Envirothon Team overnight trip to Crossville, Tennessee for state level competition – Funding Source: Club Account (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville Junior High School Dance Team overnight to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for UDA Camp – Funding Source: Parents (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Maryville High School sports fees for 2026-27 (Attachment A5)
7. Approve a three-year agreement with TSBA for District Policy Manual Maintenance - $12,750.00 – Funding Source: Board of Education Dues and Memberships (Attachment A6)
8. Approve school fees of $45.00 for elementary schools, $60.00 for intermediate schools and for Maryville Virtual School, and as outlined in the attachment for Maryville Junior High School and Maryville High School – (Attachment A7)

AGENDA

1. Consider awarding tenure to the following teachers: Joshua Oliver and Melissa Stowers (Central Office); Hannah Anderson, Amanda Bivens, Katie Linginfelter, and Kati Snoderly (Foothills); Lauren Beauregard, Miranda Brakebill, and Heather Terry (John Sevier); Kristin Gregory and Krystle Redley (Coulter Grove); Rachel Mayse (Montgomery Ridge); Natalie Bayles and

Brittany Strom (Maryville Junior High); Jeffrey Burchfield, Nick Myers, and Kevin White (Maryville High School).

a. Dr. Winstead reviewed the criteria for tenure, which includes five years of teaching service in Maryville City Schools and composite evaluation scores of 4 or 5 during the final two years. He shared that these teachers were recommended by their principals and stated that he was pleased to present them to the Board for consideration.
b. On behalf of the tenure candidates, Brittany Strom expressed appreciation to the School Board and Dr. Winstead. She shared several meaningful experiences from her time at Maryville Junior High School and stated that she appreciates the opportunity to make a difference and positively impact future generations.
c. Board members shared their appreciation for the teachers and the positive impact they make on students. They expressed gratitude for their commitment to the students and the school system. Mr. Stinnett stated that while MCS can build excellent facilities, it is the people we put in those buildings who make the difference.
d. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
e. Motion approved Unanimously.
f. Dr. Winstead awarded certificates.

2. Consider FY27 Annual Budget (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Dr. Winstead expressed appreciation for the hard work of Sarah Pritchard and Brittany Trentham in preparing the budget. He shared that there have been a few minor changes since the Board retreat and noted that MCS has taken a conservative approach in estimating sales and property tax revenues. General Purpose budget for FY27 is1.22% over current year if you don't count the use of fund balance. It represents an 8% increase over the current year when the $8 million set aside out of fund balance for the Sam Houston project is factored in.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider 2026-27 Salary Scales (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Nick Black.
    b. All salary scales include a 2.5% salary increase. Dr. Winstead also shared that 85% of teachers hold a master's degree or higher.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Consider FY27-FY32 Facility Master Plan (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead shared that the district is required to submit a six-year master plan to the City as part of the budget process. He noted that the plan includes the projects previously discussed and identifies anticipated funding sources, including projects for which city support is expected and those that will be funded through other sources.
    c. Mr. Black asked for updated completion date on the EIC, and Dr. Winstead the project is slated for completion at the end of June.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Consider changes of Board Policy 2.805 (Purchasing), 5.302 (Sick Leave), and 5.303 (Personal and Professional Leave) – first reading (Attachment B4)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.

b. Policy 2.805 was revised to allow bookkeepers to make electronic payments without having to visit the bank in person. Additional updates reflect changes in state law regarding teacher sick leave policies. The revised policy changes leave allocations from 10 sick days and 2 personal days to 8 sick days and 4 personal days. Dr. Winstead noted that the district will continue to follow specific guidelines outlined in state law and Board policy when distinguishing between sick and personal leave.
c. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Consider sole bid from Mobile Fixtures for Sam Houston Elementary School kitchen equipment- $176,537.61 – Funding Source: Cafeteria/Food Service Equipment (Attachment B5)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. The cafeteria portion is not included as part of the bid and will be purchased using the district's cafeteria fund balance, which increased during COVID. Dr. Winstead shared that the project will be funded entirely through food service funds. The updated cafeteria design will allow students to be served on both sides through two serving lines.
    c. Motion approved unanimously.
7. Consider nominees for Student Representatives to the Board for the 2026-27 school year.
    a. Assistant Director Joshua Oliver introduced the nominees for Student Representatives to the Board. He introduced Caroline Carver and Andrew Gao and shared that there were many highly qualified applicants. He stated that Caroline and Andrew were selected following the application and interview process.
    b. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    c. Current Student Representative Noah Jackson, along with other Board members, shared their support and congratulations with the newly selected Student Representatives.
    d. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead reflected on the recent graduation ceremonies, noting that approximately 300 additional chairs were added for the Maryville Virtual School graduation ceremony and that nearly all seats were filled. He shared that the Maryville High School graduation ceremony remains one of his favorite events each year and commended staff for successfully managing the large crowd despite ongoing construction. He also recognized the speeches given by Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Hilton.

He thanked principals for a successful school year, stating that such success does not happen by accident. He also discussed challenges related to Canvas and acknowledged the adjustments teachers have made for final exams and end of year work. He shared that the district received raw TCAP scores from the state, allowing schools to calculate final grades and begin identifying third-grade students who may need retesting based on state requirements and additional data.

Summer school will begin the following Tuesday and continue through June 18. For the first time, the district will offer an upcoming kindergarten class at each elementary school as part of the summer school program.

Mr. Simerly asked about third-grade reading scores. Dr. Winstead shared that state policies have remained consistent and that the district is able to communicate openly with parents through benchmark data to clearly identify students who may need summer school or tutoring support. He stated that the district's goal is to provide intervention and support, not to retain students.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Julie Elder presented Noah Jackson with a certificate and small gift in recognition of his service as Student Representative. She shared how proud the Board is of Noah and noted that his insight and perspective as a student representative have been invaluable. She also recognized him for being a member of the Pride of the Southland Band at the University of Tennessee in fall 2026.

We would like to recognize several staff members who are retiring from Maryville City Schools this year. We are incredibly grateful for their years of service and the impact they have made across our schools.
Foothills: Julie Bryant
Montgomery Ridge: Shannon Brady, Joni Brown, Keith Lambert, and Mendi Mann
Sam Houston: Kathy Lambert

We celebrated two graduating classes last week. Congratulations to the Maryville Virtual School Class of 2026 and Maryville High School Class of 2026.

MVS:
24 graduates
4 graduated with honors
2 graduated with distinction
2 graduated with honors and distinction

MHS:
405 graduates
87% of seniors received scholarship offers, with the total four-year dollar value exceeding $12 million. The accepted four-year scholarship value surpasses $7.5 million.

Congratulations to the Coulter Grove's Performing Arts Group and director Naomi Leichman on four successful performances of *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* The production featured nearly 60 student performers. Thank you to Mrs. Leichman and all staff members who helped make the show a success!

Dr. Hebert and the Blount County Robotics Team presented their robot at Blount Partnership on May 11. The team placed 5th out of 48 teams in Huntsville, Alabama at a global competition.

All three music departments from Montgomery Ridge received 1st place superior ranking at the Music in the Parks Festival at Dollywood.

The MHS Softball team is heading to state and will be playing on May 19.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Isaac Simerly thanked Joshua Oliver for providing the book on artificial intelligence in education. He congratulated everyone on a great school year and highlighted Ms. Anne Robinson, a fifth-grade ELA teacher at MRIS, for the positive impact she made on his son this year.

Candy Morgan reflected on another great school year and encouraged staff to take time over the summer to rest and recharge.

Bart Stinnett shared that it has been a wonderful year and that he is grateful to be part of Maryville City Schools. He reflected on the many celebrations throughout the year, including the Maryville Virtual School and Maryville High School graduation ceremonies, which he described as impressive and memorable events. He also shared that one event that stood out to him was the Homecoming Parade because it involved every school across the district.

Noah Jackson shared that it has been a significant year both personally and for the school system. He commended the district for how well construction projects were handled and noted that many of his family members attended graduation from out of town. He reflected on graduation week and the many activities held to celebrate seniors. He also thanked the Board members and shared his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Student Representative and learn more about the school system at a higher level.

Nick Black thanked Noah Jackson for his service as Student Representative and shared that he has been impressed by Noah's punctuality, thoughtful comments, and professionalism in representing his classmates. He reflected on the two graduation ceremonies and specifically mentioned Mrs. Hilton's speech connecting graduation to the ongoing construction projects. He noted that hosting graduation in the middle of a construction zone could have been challenging, but the event was handled exceptionally well. He also shared that it is a blessing to have his children in Maryville City Schools and encouraged everyone to finish the school year strong and enjoy a great summer.

Julie Elder shared that community involvement, support, and buy-in were recurring themes throughout the evening. She stated that students recognize the support they receive from the community through events such as the Homecoming Parade, graduation ceremonies, senior walks through elementary schools, and other celebrations held throughout the year. She shared that the entire community takes pride in the graduating class and also expressed pride in the tenure recognition ceremony.

ADJOURN
Meeting adjourned at 6:17
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene