

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for July 13, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 15 at the Maryville City Schools District Office. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, and Candy Morgan. 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

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

1. Approve Minutes of June 15, 2026, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve second reading changes to Board Policies 1.804, 2.805, 5.302, 5.303, 5.403, 5.608, and 5.800 (Attachment A1)
3. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Shaw Flooring for Maryville High School Library floor replacement - \$45,814.51 – Funding Source: Building Improvements (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee approval for renewal of MVPA Mastery Connect from Instructure - \$56,238.77– Funding Source: Summer School/GP Software (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Canvas Cloud renewal from Instructure - \$36,607.25 – Funding Source: Regular Ed Software (Attachment A4)
6. Approve to declare certain items as surplus and authorize their disposal (Attachment A5)

AGENDA

1. Consider FY26 #2 Budget Amendment (Attachment B1)
 - a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
 - b. Finance Director Sarah Pritchard presented the year-end budget amendment, noting that it is the district's annual budget cleanup and does not change the overall bottom line. The amendment includes routine accounting adjustments, carryover of grant funds, and internal budget transfers for the cafeteria and Adventure Club programs. She reported that the district has substantially closed out FY25 expenditures and moved remaining encumbrances to FY27. Current projections show approximately \$79.2 million in revenues, \$76.3 million in expenditures, and a \$2.9 million increase in fund balance, resulting in an estimated FY26 ending fund balance of \$19.6 million. Ms. Pritchard also provided updates on outstanding balances for major capital projects and noted that the district's auditors will begin their annual audit in August. Because the amendment does not affect the overall budget, City Council approval is not required.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Consider first reading of new Board Policy 4.215 – Instructional Use of Digital Devices (Attachment B2)
 - a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Bart Stinnett.
 - b. Dr. Winstead shared the Instructional Use of Digital Devices Policy is based on the Tennessee School Boards Association model policy, which was developed to reflect new state laws and guidance regarding student device use. He explained that district leadership and teachers provided input during the development of the policy. Dr. Winstead noted that since the launch of the district's iReach initiative, Maryville City Schools has emphasized a balanced approach to technology integration and that students spend less time on devices today than they did a decade ago. The proposed policy supports the use of technology when it provides a clear educational benefit while allowing teachers to determine appropriate classroom use.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider expedited action on Board Policy 6.200 - Attendance -(Attachment B3)
 - a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnett. Second from Candy Morgan.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that expedited action is needed on Policy 6.200 for it to take effect at the beginning of the school year. Under the revised policy, students will be limited to seven excused absences supported by parent notes each school year. He explained that the change aligns Maryville City Schools with the practices of most Tennessee school districts, as MCS previously allowed up to 10 parent notes. The revision is intended to provide families flexibility for occasional absences while encouraging regular attendance. Dr. Winstead noted that students will still have ample opportunity to address attendance concerns before reaching the truancy threshold.
 - c. Board Vice-Chair Nick Black emphasized the importance of communicating the policy change frequently and through multiple channels to ensure parents are well informed.
 - d. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Consider changes in first reading of Board Policies 1.400, 1.403, 2.100, and 2.200 (Attachment B4)
 - a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Nick Black.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that the propose first-reading revisions include updates related to agenda posting, as well as fiscal timeline adjustments for financial reporting and year-end closing procedures.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Consider changes in first reading to Board Policies 4.213, 4.301, and 4.605 (Attachment B5)
 - a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Bart Stinnett.
 - b. Dr. Winstead shared the proposed revisions to policies include updates to Policy 4.301 regarding student athletics. The revision aligns participation opportunities for eligible private school students with those available to homeschooled students, allowing students attending qualifying private schools that do not offer a particular sport to try out for that sport at their zoned public school.
 - c. During discussion, board members Nick Black and Bart Stinnett requested clarification that the policy language specifically references the opportunity to try out rather than guaranteeing participation on a team.
 - d. Vice Chair Nick Black made a motion to amend the proposed policy language by replacing "participate" with "try out" to clarify that eligible students are guaranteed the opportunity to try out for a team, but not guaranteed a roster position.
 - e. Bart Stinnett seconded the motion.

- f. The amended motion was approved unanimously.
- 6. Consider changes in the first reading to Board Policies 5.106, 5.200, 5.201, and 5.600 (Attachment B6)
 - a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that the proposed personnel policy revisions primarily reflect changes in state law and current district practices. Updates include verification through E-Verify, which the district already requires, and revisions related to the separation of tenured and non-tenured employees. He noted that while teachers who leave during the school year may no longer lose tenure under state law, the changes do not result in any significant change to the district's current practices.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
- 7. Consider first reading of new Board Policy 6.4053 – Outside Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy (Attachment B7)
 - a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Bart Stinnett.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that the proposed policy revision reflects a change in state law regarding private therapists providing services to students during the school day. He noted that Maryville City Schools already has procedures in place for students with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities with IEPs include these services. Under the policy, parents are responsible for arranging and paying for the therapist, while the district provides access in accordance with state law.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead shared that the final administrative vacancy has been filled with the appointment of Elijah Harris as assistant principal at Coulter Grove Intermediate School. Mr. Harris most recently served as a sixth-grade math teacher at the school.

Dr. Winstead reported that the state has lifted the embargo on district achievement scores, and report cards are now publicly available. Achievement results have been released for English language arts, mathematics, and social studies, while science achievement data will be released later due to the state's adoption of a new assessment. Growth scores will also be released at a later date. He shared that Maryville City Schools ranked second in Tennessee in the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the English II and Algebra II End-of-Course assessments and third in the state in U.S. History EOC and sixth-grade English language arts. Overall, the district ranked third statewide in student achievement, behind Williamson County and Collierville Schools.

Dr. Winstead provided updates on several facility projects. Construction at the Early Intervention Center is nearing completion, with most remaining work limited to exterior improvements, including paving and fencing. Furniture is expected to arrive within the next few weeks. At Maryville High School, construction continues, with the block reaching the tops of the buildings on both sides. The drive behind the auxiliary gym is expected to reopen by mid-August for daytime deliveries and Friday night events, with full access anticipated at the end of the 26-27 school year. At Sam Houston Elementary, grading is nearly complete. Enough will be completed to begin the new school year, with completion of the new

front lot to be completed by the end of August. Both the gym and new classrooms have an anticipated completion date by spring break, allowing teachers to move into these spaces so renovations can begin in the current gym.

Dr. Winstead concluded by reporting that, aside from a few interim positions, the district is fully staffed and prepared for the new school year. He noted that preparations are underway for the New Teacher Breakfast and iReach training as the district looks forward to welcoming students and staff back for another successful year.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to the Maryville High School Symphonic Band on being selected as a Featured Guest Ensemble for the 2026 Tri-State Honor Band Festival, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The band was chosen to perform at this prestigious event, which brings together approximately 200 outstanding high school musicians and directors from across the southeastern United States.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Isaac Simerly shared he is looking forward to welcoming the district's new teachers at the upcoming New Teacher Breakfast and is excited to kick off another school year.

Candy Morgan thanked Dr. Winstead for his report and the data he shared. She commended the work accomplished over the summer and encouraged principals as they prepare for the start of the new school year.

Bart Stinnett wished everyone a great remainder of the summer and expressed excitement about the progress being made at Sam Houston Elementary and Maryville High School. He thanked the principals for their continued leadership and hard work.

Nick Black shared his excitement for the upcoming school year, noting that he enjoys seeing the progress made at MHS when he drops his son off for football camp. He expressed optimism for the new school year and encouraged everyone to enjoy the final weeks of summer before classes begin.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene