

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – July 28, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

CONVENE AND ACTION

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

**Motion to withdraw Mr. Wyatt Certification of Charges from the agenda and pull Item A-1-g-Board Policies – 5.303 Personal and Professional Leave from the consent agenda. By Berthena Naba-Mckinney, seconded Erin O’Hara Block
Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)**

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Maplewood High School – Bridgestone Automotive Training Center Reauthorization – The Board and Dr. Battle congratulated Maplewood.
- B. Jonathan Rodriquez Soloman, Amqui Magnet K-8 School, Winner of the Distinguished Trailblazers in the Sciences competition at Michan State University.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- A. Dr. Battle and staff presented on Preparing for the ‘26-’27 School Year: Core Tenets: 1. Re-envision central office as a support hub; 2. Empower and equip leaders at all levels; 3. Create and Support Engaging, Rigorous, and Personalized Learning Experiences for All Students; 4. Identify and Eliminate Inequities

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Kevin Dyson – He addressed the Board concerning the Music City Academy charter application.
- B. Ken Thomas – He addressed the Board concerning the Music City Academy charter application.
- C. Viva Price – She addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter application.
- D. Cassi Whitworth – She addressed the Board concerning Music City Academy charter application.
- E. Jim Leckrone – He addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter application.
- F. Aaron McGree – He addressed the Board concerning Music City Academy charter application.
- G. Burrus Cox – He addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter application.
- H. Christian McDonald – She addressed the Board concerning Music City Academy charter application.
- I. Maya Cox – She addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter application.
- J. Alise Gregory – She addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter application.
- K. Andrea Kinzer – She addressed the Board concerning The Gate School charter application.
- L. Ismail Fiden – He addressed the Board concerning Nashville School of Excellence charter application.
- M. Ebonee Bursey – She addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter application.
- N. Arlene Martin-Morton - She addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter application.
- O. Etkar Ergul - He addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter application.
- P. Shukra Khalid - She addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter application.
- Q. Nazira Alimova - She addressed the Board concerning the Nashville School of Excellence charter application.

BOARD REPORTS

A. Rachael Anne Elrod gave a Governance Committee update.

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

A. Actions

1. Consent

a. Minutes – 6/23/2026– Regular Meeting

b. Awarding of Purchases and Contracts

1. Applicant Insight, Inc.

2. Bongards Creameries

3. Butterball, LLC

4. Creative Girls Rock

5. District Management Group, LLC

6. Eduservice, Inc. dba CT3

7. Elisheba Mrozik dba Queen Bee Ink, LLC

8. Genesis Learning Centers

9. Gold Creek Foods, LLC

10. Goodman Food Products dba Don Lee Farms

11. High Liner Foods

12. HopSkipDrive, Inc.

13. Hormel Food Sales, LLC

14. Integrated Food Service

15. JTM Provisions Co., Inc.

16. Land O Lakes Dairy

17. M.C.I. Foods, Inc.

18. Miriam Speyer

19. Nashville State Community College

20. National Education Opportunity Network, Inc.

21. Overdrive, Inc.

22. Phases LLC

23. Pilgrim's Pride Corporation

24. Scenario Learning, LLC dba Vector Solutions

- 25. Simformation, LLC**
- 26. Tennessee College of Applied Technology Nashville**
- 27. The J.M. Smucker Co., dba Smucker Foodservice, Inc.**
- 28. The Metropolitan Nashville Education Association (MNEA)**
- 29. Trident Seafood Corp.**
- 30. Tyson Prepared Foods, Inc.**

c. Charter School Handbook

d. Human Trafficking Curriculum Implementation Plan

e. School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding

f. Certification of Charges

g. Board Policies:

- 1. 1.400 School Board Meetings**
- 2. 1.404 Public Participation**
- 3. 1.905 Charter School Renewal**
- 4. 2.100 Fiscal Management Goals**
- 5. 2.200 Annual Operating Budget**
- 6. 2.800 Expenditure of Funds**
- 7. 4.213 Family Life Education**
- 8. 4.215 Instructional Use of Digital Devices**
- 9. 4.301 Interscholastic Athletics**
- 10. 4.600 Grading System**
- 11. 4.603 Promotion and Retention**
- 12. 4.605 Graduation Requirements**
- 13. 5.106 Application and Employment**
- 14. 5.110 Compensation Guides & Contracts**
- 15. 5.200 Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers**
- 16. 5.201 Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers**

- 17. 5.302 Sick Leave**
- 18. ~~5.303 Personal and Professional Leave~~**
- 19. 5.600 Staff Rights & Responsibilities**
- 20. 5.610 Staff-Student Relations**
- 21. 5.612 Social Media**
- 22. 5.801 Director of Schools**
- 23. Recruitment and Selection**
- 24. 6.200 Attendance**
- 25. 6.202 Home Schools**
- 26. 6.205 Student Assignments**
- 27. 6.303 Interrogations and Searches**
- 28. 6.306 Interference/Disruption of School Activities**
- 29. 6.317 Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority**
- 30. 6.318 Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students**
- 31. 6.4053 Outside Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy**
- 32. 6.412 Emergency Allergy Response Plan**
- 33. 6.505 Students in Foster Care**
- 34. 6.506 Students from Military Families**

Motion to approve the consent agenda.
By Cheryl Mayes, seconded T.K. Fayne
Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

Motion to amend Item A-1-g-5.303 Personal and Professional Leave and insert the words "at least" on line one in front of the word "two days" and also inserting the words "at least" in front of the words "four days".

By Zach Young, seconded Erin O'Hara Block

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

Motion to approve the amendments to Item A-1-g-5.303 Personal and Professional Leave

By Erin O'Hara Block, seconded Zach Young

Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)

2. New Start Charter School Appeals

Motion to deny the amended Nashville School of Excellence Charter Application Nashville based on the Charter School Review Team's evidence-finding report and presentation, which rated Educational Program Design and Capacity, Operations Plan and Capacity, Budget and Finance, and Applicable Addenda each as Partially Meets Standard, with an overall rating of Partially Meets Standard. Among the evidence in the record, the concerns I would specifically note include, but are not limited to: First, network performance. The review team found that while the amended application acknowledges 2025 performance deficiencies at Memphis School of Excellence Cordova, it does not fully address that school's Level 1 growth score or 2.3 achievement score. Reported ACT performance remains below both state and MNPS averages. Second, the governing board does not primarily meet locally. The amended application adds one annual in-person meeting in Nashville, but the review team found parent participation would continue to rely primarily on virtual attendance, with limited detail on how the parent representative will be supported, oriented, and meaningfully integrated into board governance.

Third, the proposed STEM model's goals continue to be only loosely aligned with the mission and do not clearly align with state accountability indicators nor demonstrate a clear plan for assessing mission attainment. Even with the amended application revisions including the correction of STEMscopes curriculum, there is little information on how their instructional program is different from what is already provided by MNPS and need for this school is not justified. Finally, the fiscal impact summary and estimates of that the district provides cites a substantial estimated fiscal impact of \$2,184,849 in Year 1 and \$8,979,510 at build-out across 23 schools, including at Oliver Middle School and the community I represent.

**By Rachael Anne Elrod, seconded Zach Young
Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)**

Motion to deny the amended charter application for Empowerment Academy based on the Charter School Review Team's evidence-finding report and presentation, which rated Educational Program Design and Capacity, Operations Plan and Capacity, Budget and Finance, and Applicable Addenda each as Partially Meets Standard, with an overall rating of Partially Meets Standard.

**By Erin O'Hara Block, seconded Berthena Nabaa-Mckinney
Vote: 9-0 (unanimous)**

Motion to deny the amended charter application for The Gate School based on the Charter School Review Team's evidence-finding report AND the district's Estimated Fiscal Impact Summary for FY2027. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108(c), the establishment of this school would have a substantial negative fiscal impact on Metro Nashville Public Schools such that authorization would be contrary to the best interests of the students, the LEA, OR the community. Specifically here we are focused on the students in fiscal

impact summary's referenced school communities and the communities proposed for recruitment and enrollment. The district's fiscal analysis projects an estimated impact of \$1,873,855 in Year 1, rising to \$5,621,566 at build-out, with specific estimated impact across seven Nashville communities, including several in West Nashville as specified in the district's estimated fiscal impact summary.

**By Erin O'Hara Block, seconded Abaigail Tylor
Vote: 8-1 (Robert Taylor)**

Motion to deny the amended charter application for Music City Academy based on the Charter School Review Team's evidence-finding report AND the district's Estimated Fiscal Impact Summary for FY2027.

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108(c), the establishment of this school would have a substantial negative fiscal impact on Metro Nashville Public Schools such that authorization would be contrary to the best interests of the students, the LEA, OR the community. Specifically, here we are focused on the students in the fiscal impact summary's referenced school communities and the communities proposed for recruitment and enrollment.

The district's fiscal analysis projects a recurring loss of \$1,671,012 in Year 1, rising to \$6,684,049 at build-out, drawn from eight high schools in several different Nashville communities.

**By Erin O'Hara Block, seconded Berthena Nabaa-Mckinney
Vote: 7-1 (T.K. Fayne abstained, Robert Taylor)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Freda Player announced that the September 7 Board is canceled. The Board will meet one time in September on the 22nd.

WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

A. Sales Tax Collections as of July 20, 2026

Freda Player adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

David G. Sevier

David G. Sevier	Freda Player	Date
Board Secretary	Board Chair	