

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for August 10, 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, Candy Morgan, and student representative Andrew Gao. 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.

UPDATE FROM MARYVILLE ACADEMY

Mr. Kyle Harris, Maryville Academy Principal, shared the names of the Maryville Academy staff for the 2026-27 school year and provided an overview. During the 2025-26 school year, Maryville Academy served 60 students in grades 7-12, while the current school year began with 16 students. Students spend an average of 90 days at Maryville Academy, with approximately one in six returning more than once. Students are eligible for an early review at the halfway point, and approximately half return to their home school at that time.

Mr. Harris highlighted three areas of focus for students: success, support, and challenge. He emphasized the importance of helping students experience early success and described the Maryville Academy's approach of unconditional positive regard and measuring success based on individual student growth. He also highlighted the partnership with McNabb Center to evaluate program effectiveness and identify appropriate levels of student support.

Professional development for the 2026-27 school year will focus on restorative practices and Handle With Care as part of school culture, along with differentiation and the challenges and opportunities associated with artificial intelligence in instruction.

Mr. Harris concluded by challenging Board members to consider one skill, one habit, one mindset, and one hope they would like students to take with them when they leave Maryville City Schools.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Approve Minutes of July 21, 2025, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve second reading of changes to the Board Policies 1.400, 1.403, 2.100, 2.200, 4.213, 4.215, 4.301, 4.605, 5.106, 5.200, 5.201, 5.600, and 6.4053 (Attachment A1)

3. Approve Maryville High School Volleyball overnight trip to Louisville, Kentucky – Funding Source: Volleyball (Attachment A2)
4. Approve to declare certain items as surplus and authorize their disposal (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Maryville High School Softball overnight to Gulf Shores, Alabama for tournaments – Funding Source: Softball (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Maryville High School Boys and Girls Cross Country overnight to Huntsville, Alabama for a race – Funding Source: Team/Student (Attachment A5)
7. Approve Maryville High School Honors Band, Chorus, and Orchestra overnight to Nashville, Tennessee for TMEA All-State Performances – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Maryville High School Band overnight to Cleveland, Tennessee for ETSBOA Jazz Clinic at Walker Valley High School – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A7)
9. Approve Maryville High School Band overnight to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for ETSBOA All-State East Senior Clinic – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A8)
10. Approve Maryville Junior High School Ninth Grade Band overnight to Nashville, Tennessee – Funding Source: Student Fees (Attachment A9)
11. Approve Maryville Junior High School Band to attend ETSBOA Concert Performance Assessment – Funding Source: Student (Attachment A10)
12. Approve Maryville Junior High School Ninth Grade Band overnight to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for ESTBOA All-State East Band Clinic - Funding Source: Students (Attachment A11)

AGENDA

1. Consider iPad purchase from Apple - \$171,600.00 - Funding Source: Technology (Attachment B1)
 - a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
 - b. Dr. Winstead provided an update on the district's device replacement cycle. He explained that the district recently purchased a large number of iPads for students in grades 4-8. Rather than continuing to use outdated devices in kindergarten for another year, the district plans to purchase an additional 400 iPads to provide updated devices for all kindergarten classrooms. This purchase will help establish a more consistent replacement cycle, with devices for grades K-3, grades 4-8, grades 9-12, and teachers replaced on a rotating schedule. Dr. Winstead noted that this approach will help create more predictable and manageable annual technology expenditures.
 - c. Mr. Josh Oliver, Assistant Director of Schools, provided an update on the district's iPad rollout and related professional development. In May, K-8 teachers were offered an optional iPad implementation training, with approximately 140 teachers participating. An Apple representative led the training, and additional sessions were offered during iReachU to highlight available tools and resources. Mr. Oliver shared that feedback has been positive and that nearly all K-8 teachers needing training have been reached. The district is also planning a two-day, train-the-trainer session for approximately 18 iReach coaches, who will provide ongoing support to teachers throughout the school year. At the high school level, 10th-grade students are piloting MacBook Neo devices in preparation for 9-12 implementation, with teacher training also planned. Mr. Oliver noted that students have responded enthusiastically to the new devices.
 - d. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider changes on first reading to Board Policies 6.202, 6.205, 6.306, 6.318, 6.412, and 6.506 (Attachment B2)
 - a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Isaac Simerly.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that Policy 6.205 requires principals to develop a school safety plan, while Policy 6.308 requires principals to notify all parents by the end of the school day when a classroom evacuation occurs. Mr. Black asked for clarification regarding provisions related to orders of protection.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consider changes on first reading to Board Policies 4.100, 4.300, 5.104, 5.501, 6.100, 6.301, 6.303, 6.304, and 6.3041 to add the definition of sex required by state law (Attachment B3)
 - a. Motion to approve by Bart Stinnet. Second from Candy Morgan.
 - b. Dr. Winstead explained that the revisions adds the definition of “sex” as required by new state law. He noted that the requirement applies broadly to taxpayer-funded state and local government entities and requires applicable handbooks and policies that use the term “sex” to include the statutory definition by the end of the calendar year.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Consider the 2027-28 School Calendar (Attachment B4)
 - a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
 - b. Dr. Winstead reviewed the proposed 2027-28 school calendar and shared that parents were surveyed regarding two calendar options. Based on feedback, the proposed calendar includes the full week of Thanksgiving as a break and eliminates intervention and enrichment days. A staff development day has been added on the Monday following spring break. The calendar maintains 176 student instructional days and uses four stockpiled days to provide additional professional development opportunities for staff.
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead reported that the district had a strong start to the school year and thanked administrators and staff for their work in preparing for students’ return.

He provided updates on several facility projects. At Maryville High School, the arches for the Performing Arts Center are now visible, with roofing expected to begin within the next few weeks. The expanded kitchen space is being utilized, and three new serving lines are installed and operational. At Sam Houston, construction is progressing, with paving expected to be completed by Labor Day and the footprint of the new building beginning to take shape.

Dr. Winstead acknowledged the typical traffic challenges associated with the beginning of the school year. He also reported that EIC began the school year in their newly renovated building and hosted an open house for parents. The EIC has received its certificate of occupancy, and paving work is expected to be completed soon.

Looking ahead to next school year, Dr. Winstead shared that teachers impacted by the grade reconfiguration will be notified of their anticipated assignments prior to the September Board meeting. As in previous years, teachers will then have an opportunity to request transfers. Upcoming professional development days will provide principals opportunities to meet with their new staff. Staffing needs for teaching assistants, office personnel, custodians, and cafeteria staff will also be finalized based on

enrollment and program needs. Dr. Winstead noted that matters, such as potential rezoning, are expected to come before the Board in October.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Book Vending Machines

Foothills, John Sevier, and Montgomery Ridge, and Coulter Grove recently received new book vending machines, while Sam Houston received funding to purchase new books for its existing machine.

These machines provide a fun and engaging way to promote literacy, encourage positive student achievement, and put more books into the hands of students. We are grateful to the Maryville City Schools Foundation and Arconic for providing grant funding to make these opportunities possible.

Montgomery Ridge Genre Challenge

Dee Dulin and Maria Bradley are kicking off a new 5th Grade Genre Challenge, made possible through a Maryville City Schools Foundation grant! As students explore and complete books from different genres, they will earn special “Brag Tags” to celebrate their progress.

Maryville High School students and staff would like to thank our cafeteria staff and MCS Maintenance for their incredible work to ensure a smooth start in our cafeteria this year. We are so excited about the renovations.

Kick off Events took place at all our schools last week, and schools shared photos of the students and families that attended.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Candy Morgan commented on the progress being made towards building renovations and grade reconfiguration. She thanked Mr. Oliver for his work on the iPad implementation.

Isaac Simerly expressed his excitement about the start of the new school year, thanked Mr. Harris for his presentation, and recognized the Maryville City Schools Foundation for supporting the new book vending machines.

Andrew Gao thanked administrators for their work in preparing for the new school year and expressed his excitement for the year ahead. He also thanked Mrs. Hilton for coordinating high school activities, including senior events and the painting of senior parking spaces, and shared his enthusiasm for the start of the fall athletic season.

Bart Stinnett commented on the senior parking spaces at Maryville High School and shared that they looked great. He enjoyed seeing students and families working together and noted the many exciting projects and activities taking place across the district. He wished students and staff a great school year.

Nick Black thanked Dr. Winstead for the facilities update and shared his excitement about seeing construction progress across the district. He also expressed appreciation for the updates regarding teacher assignments, new furniture, and the many preparations associated with the upcoming grade reconfiguration. He noted the excitement he sees in his own children and shared his appreciation for the people who make Maryville City Schools a special place. He wished everyone a great school year and concluded by encouraging Maryville to beat Alcoa.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene