BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for October 19, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19 at Sam Houston Elementary School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Bart Stinnett, 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 led by 3rd grade student Kinslee Ray.

UPDATE FROM SAM HOUSTON

Principal Molly Rice welcomed guests to Sam Houston and shared the excitement surrounding the school's ongoing construction. She expressed appreciation to Dr. Winstead and the School Board for their leadership, commitment, and support in making the expansion project possible. Ms. Rice also provided a glimpse into the beginning of the school year, highlighting the school's focus on learning and growing every day. She emphasized the importance of building on what staff already know and do best - loving students, ensuring they feel known and safe, and fostering a sense of belonging as the foundation for learning and growth.

Assistant Principal Julie Vananda provided an update on the school's construction progress, recognizing Merritt Construction for its commitment to safety and the MCS Maintenance Team for its continued support. She also acknowledged the work of the SHE Expansion Committee in planning logistics and helping navigate the renovation process. Ms. Vananda shared photos highlighting progress on the parking lots, new gymnasium, and cafeteria expansion.

ADOPT AGENDA

Julie Elder asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Isaac Simerly 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

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

1. Approve Minutes of September 14, 2026, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve second reading of Policy 4.600 – Grading System (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Coulter Grove Intermediate School Liaisons overnight trip to Nashville, Tennessee for Ace of Shakes – Funding Source: School General Fund (Attachment A2)
4. Approve Coulter Grove Intermediate School Music Department overnight to Ohio for a music festival competition – Funding Source: Fundraising (Attachment A3)
5. Approve Coulter Grove Intermediate School Leadership Team overnight to Washington DC – Funding Source: Self Pay (Attachment A4)

6. Approve Maryville Junior High School Eighth Grade Band Students overnight to Nashville, Tennessee to perform at the All-State Convention – Funding Source: Student Fees (Attachment A5)
7. Ratify Executive Committee approval for a multi-year contract with PowerSchool – Funding Source: Regular Education Software (Attachment A6)
8. Approve Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School Rangers overnight to Pennsylvania – Funding Source: Students/Families (Attachment A7)
9. Approve the 2026 LEA Compliance Report (Attachment A8)
10. Approve the Maryville City Schools TISA Accountability Report and Goals (Attachment A9)
11. Approve Maryville High School Wrestling Team overnight to Johnson City, Tennessee for a Wrestling Tournament at Science Hill High School – Funding Source: Wrestling Account (Attachment A10)
12. Approve Maryville High School Wrestling Team overnight to Asheville, North Carolina for Wrestling Tournament – Funding Source: Wrestling Account (Attachment A11)
13. Approve Maryville High School and Maryville Junior High School All East Honors Choir overnight to Johnson City, Tennessee for All East Honors performance – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A12)

AGENDA

1. Consider naming the field at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School the "Joey Winders Field".
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Seconds from Isaac Simerly and Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead expressed appreciation for Mr. Winders' years of service and work to maintain the field. Derek Hunt shared personal memories of Mr. Winders, highlighting his 41 years of coaching youth football and the positive influence he has had on thousands of young people. Athletic Director Brad White echoed these sentiments, describing the pride and care Mr. Winders has consistently demonstrated in maintaining the facility for students. Board members also expressed their appreciation for Mr. Winders' selfless service, commitment to young people, and lasting impact on the school district and community. Several shared personal experiences and emphasized that his contributions extend far beyond the football field. Dr. Winstead noted that a public dedication ceremony would be scheduled. Mr. Winders shared that he was overwhelmed by the honor. He reflected on the longstanding partnership that made his work possible and affectionately referred to the field as his "garden" of Bermuda grass.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Consider approval of a proposal from United Elevator Services, through the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative, to upgrade Elevator No. 2 at Maryville High School - $82,920.00 – Funding Source: Maintenance and Repair-Building (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Issac Simerly. Second from Nick Black.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that this project is part of the district's six-year plan to make necessary upgrades to elevators. The first elevator at Maryville High School was upgraded last year, with the second scheduled for this year. Additional elevators included in the plan are located at Maryville Junior High School, the District Office, and Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School. Dr. Winstead noted that the first year of the project provided valuable insight into the coordination required among contractors, including electrical and wiring vendors, to complete the upgrades.

    c. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Consider approval of the first reading of Board Policy 2.402 (Investment Earnings) (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead clarified the accounting procedures for interest earned on internally restricted funds, noting that interest is allocated to the General Fund unless otherwise specified.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead reported that while the district's annual audit of internal school funds has not yet been finalized, preliminary results indicate no findings. He noted that the audit includes school-level financial procedures, such as cafeteria operations, fee collections, and proper accounting practices. He expressed appreciation to the district's bookkeepers and principals for their diligence in maintaining strong financial practices, resulting in multiple consecutive years without audit findings.

Dr. Winstead also provided an update on the recent districtwide Professional Development Day. K–3 teachers gathered for collaborative planning across all three elementary schools, while teachers in grades 4–12 spent the morning collaborating with colleagues in their new school configurations. Feedback was positive, and similar opportunities will be provided during the November PD day to allow additional time for planning and collaboration.

Dr. Winstead shared several facilities and construction updates. Final touches are being completed at the Early Intervention Center, with landscaping by Landsculptures remaining. A retaining wall along the sidewalk at Foothills Elementary was installed over fall break. At Maryville Junior High School, the replacement of aging, leaking windows is expected to be completed within the next two weeks.

Construction at Maryville High School remains on schedule, according to contractors. Dr. Winstead shared that a recent walkthrough of both buildings revealed significant progress, with approximately 90% of the above-ceiling infrastructure work completed.

At Sam Houston Elementary, administrative offices have been relocated to allow the former office area to be renovated into school counseling space. Interior work is being completed ahead of schedule where possible, with additional renovations planned for the clinic during Christmas break. Summer projects will include the cafeteria expansion and renovating the existing gym into classrooms.

Dr. Winstead concluded by thanking MHS Principal Heather Hilton for her work in organizing the Homecoming Parade.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville High School

MHS would like to thank everyone who participated in the Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally. We are thankful to be part of this outstanding community. Our Homecoming Court raised just over $75,000 that will remain in Blount County serving their chosen charities.

The Maryville High School Marching Band competed at the Halls Invitational Marching Competition. The band placed first in their division, and the percussion unit also received first place.

Foothills Elementary School
Foothills students enjoyed receiving their first books from our Rocky Boot Box vending machine. Students received this incentive for reaching individual classroom goals in any class across Foothills including special areas, special services, and their class.

District

We are proud to share that Maryville City Schools has been named a 2025–2026 Tennessee Excellence in Civics Education District, one of only eight districts in the state to receive this distinction.

Six of our schools earned the Governor's Civics Seal, recognizing their commitment to teaching our nation's history, democratic principles, and civic responsibility. This honor reflects the outstanding work of our teachers and schools in preparing students to become informed, engaged citizens.

Athletics
Boys Golf:
Boys' Team got 3rd in District, Advanced to Region Tournament, where they placed 2nd as a team but had Ray Rebell and Will Huddleston move on as individuals for the State Tournament. At State, both boys finished in the Top Ten with a score of Even Par.

Girls Volleyball:
District Tournament Champs
Annabeth Babelay- District Libero of the Year
Blake Upward- District MVP
Christine Hames- Coach of the Year

Region Tournament Champs defeating Central 3-0
Blake Upward-Region Tournament MVP

Hosted Sectional Volleyball Match vs Dobyns Bennett-lost 3-1

Girls Soccer
Had a great season, fell in the District Tournament but finished 11-4-3 on the year.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Candy Morgan thanked Principal Molly Rice and Assistant Principal Julie Vananda for their presentation and updates. She expressed appreciation for the school's emphasis on ensuring students know they matter and have a seat at the table, noting that this sense of belonging will have a lasting impact on their lives.

Isaac Simerly thanked Principal Molly Rice and Assistant Principal Julie Vananda for their presentation, particularly highlighting the video shared. He expressed appreciation for their efforts in navigating the ongoing construction. He also commended Dr. Winstead and district staff for the positive preliminary audit results, indicating no findings and shared his excitement for Friday night's upcoming football game.

Student Board Representative Andrew Gao thanked Ms. Rice and Ms. Vananda for their presentation, noting that his siblings attended Sam Houston Elementary and that their dedication reflects a genuine commitment to students. He also expressed appreciation to Mrs. Hilton and Mr. White for their support of athletics and the opportunities provided to students.

Bart Stinnett thanked Ms. Rice and Ms. Vananda for hosting tonight's meeting and shared that he hoped everyone enjoyed a restful fall break.

Nick Black thanked Ms. Rice for hosting the meeting and for her presentation. He commended Sam Houston Elementary's focus on building upon established strengths and fundamentals, noting that this approach reflects the school's strong foundation. He also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to honor Joey Winders through the naming of the field at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School, emphasizing that such recognition is reserved for individuals who have made an extraordinary impact. Mr. Black also praised the district's preliminary audit results indicating no findings, along with the perfect cafeteria inspection scores, recognizing the pride, dedication, and attention to detail demonstrated by cafeteria staff, bookkeepers, and school personnel.

Julie Elder shared that she visits Sam Houston Elementary most weeks to read with students and consistently encounters smiling faces and positive attitudes despite any challenges of ongoing construction. She praised the school's leadership for fostering such an encouraging environment and noted that this positive outlook is evident throughout the district. She emphasized the tremendous difference that strong leadership and a positive attitude make for students and staff.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene