BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes for November 9, 2026

The Maryville Board of Education met in a regular session at 5:32 p.m. on Monday, October 19 at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School. Board members present were Julie Elder, Nick Black, Isaac Simerly, Bart Stinnett, Candy Morgan, and student representative Caroline Carver. 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 4th grade student Jackson Goodin.

UPDATE FROM MONTGOMERY RIDGE

Principal Kevin Myers welcomed the Board to MRIS and introduced Assistant Principals Logan Goodin and Katie Kite, who shared an update highlighting the school's current initiatives and preparations for the transition to a grades 4–6 school next year.

Assistant Principal Logan Goodin discussed the school's emphasis on using data to drive instruction and improve student achievement. He highlighted the use of student data cards to track progress and encourage student ownership of learning, along with item analysis and data discussions to support a schoolwide commitment to student success.

Mr. Myers shared the excitement surrounding the opportunity to reimagine Montgomery Ridge as part of the upcoming grade reconfiguration. He explained that the school's design team is focusing on the student experience, beginning with the question, "What does our ideal school look like?" As part of this process, each design team member is shadowing a student to gain a deeper understanding of the school day from a student's perspective.

Assistant Principal Katie Kite discussed plans to strengthen student connections and build a cohesive school culture by combining Capturing Kids' Hearts principles with the school's Eagle Family Values. A key component of this initiative will be the creation of five Legacy Houses, with every student and staff member assigned to a house to foster belonging, relationships, and a shared commitment to leaving a positive legacy at Montgomery Ridge.

The presentation concluded with a video highlighting the vision and opportunities surrounding the upcoming transition, emphasizing the importance of creating a meaningful student experience and ensuring the school continues to meet the needs of all students.

ADOPT AGENDA

Julie Elder asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Candy Morgan 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. Nick Black seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of October19, 2026, meeting (Attachment)
2. Approve second reading of Policy 2.402 - Investment Earnings (Attachment A1)
3. Approve Maryville Junior High School Dance Team overnight to Orlando, Florida for National UDA Competition – Funding Source: Fundraising (Attachment A2)
4. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Key Club trip to Dollywood – Funding Source: Key Club Funds (Attachment A3)
5. Ratify Executive Committee approval for Maryville High School Cross Country trip to Memphis, Tennessee – Funding Source: Maryville High School Athletics (Attachment A4)
6. Approve Maryville High School Baseball overnight to Bradenton, Florida – Funding Source: MHS Baseball (Attachment A5)
7. Approve Maryville High School overnight to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for tournament – Funding Source: MHS Baseball (Attachment A6)
8. Ratify Executive Committee approval for replacement of the water heater in the Maryville Junior High School kitchen - $48,900.00 – Funding Source: Building Improvement (Attachment A7)
9. Approve Maryville Junior High School Orchestra overnight to Cincinnati, Ohio for competition – Funding Source: Students (Attachment A8)
10. Approve committee members for the social studies textbook adoption (Attachment A9)

AGENDA

1. Consider proposal from DFA Solutions for design, purchase, and installations of audio, video, and lighting systems for the Alexander Performing Arts Center. Pricing through cooperative purchasing with Knox County/Knoxville City Public Building Authority (Contract #24-0076). Maximum of $575,000.00. Funding Source: Regular Capital Outlay - Furniture and Fixtures (Attachment B1)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead shared that MCS has been working with DFA Solutions to evaluate state-of-the-art equipment recommendations based on the architects' designs. He noted that the equipment would provide students with an exceptional facility, with long-term sustainability supported by Lamar Alexander's endowment. Equipment purchases will ultimately be fully funded through fundraising efforts, with more than $670,000 pledged and approximately $400,000 already received. Legacy donors have the option to fulfill pledges over three years, and the district will be reimbursed as funds are collected.
    c. Board member Isaac Simerly inquired about cooperative purchasing with Knox County. Dr. Winstead explained that the agreement allows other entities to utilize competitive bid pricing, resulting in significant savings. Board member Candy Morgan expressed excitement about the facility and the opportunities it will provide for students to participate in performing arts activities within the district.
    d. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Consider approval of the first reading of Board Policy 4.700 (Testing Programs) - (Attachment B2)
    a. Motion to approve by Isaac Simerly. Second from Nick Black.

b. Dr. Winstead discussed a policy revision regarding the use of TCAP scores in students' final grades. Dr. Winstead explained that the state will now expedite the release of scale scores rather than raw scores, allowing schools to determine student proficiency levels before the end of the school year. He also noted that scores are not required to be included in final grades if they are not received at least five days before the end of the school year.
c. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider quote from Daikin via the Omnia Cooperative Purchasing agreement for fresh air unit parts at Foothills Elementary - $28,484.00 – Funding Source: Capital Outlay – Building Improvements (Attachment B3)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that the unit's compressor had failed and replacement parts were no longer available, making continued operation and maintenance cost-prohibitive.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Consider quote from Systems Integration, LLC for a server at Sam Houston Elementary School. TIPS contract 260105 - $26,795.00 – Funding Source: Technology (Attachment B4)
    a. Motion to approve by Candy Morgan. Second from Bart Stinnett.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that the district has upgraded servers supporting security camera systems at John Sevier Elementary and Coulter Grove Intermediate over the past several years. The server at Sam Houston Elementary is now due for replacement, as it is nearing the end of its useful life and additional capacity is needed. The new server will support both existing security cameras and those being installed as part of the school's expansion.
    c. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Consider purchase of 1460 MacBook Neo laptops and subscription from Apple, Inc - $1,148,155.00 – Funding Source: Instructional Equipment (Attachment B5)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Isaac Simerly.
    b. Dr. Winstead explained that the laptop purchase was included in the district's budget but is being moved forward due to an anticipated price increase in January and logistical considerations. Purchasing early will allow time for the devices to be received and configured before the end of the school year, streamlining deployment next year.
    c. Assistant Director Joshua Oliver shared positive feedback from the initial purchase of 460 MacBook Neo laptops in April, noting that iReach coaches received training on the devices. Of the four laptops returned, all involved manufacturing defects rather than student damage. He reported a significant decrease in damage-related support tickets and positive feedback regarding battery life and performance. Any increase in support requests has primarily involved users adjusting to unfamiliar software.
    d. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Consider approval of the first reading of Board Policy 2.804 (Expenses and Reimbursements) (Attachment B6)
    a. Motion to approve by Nick Black. Second from Candy Morgan.
    b. Dr. Winstead reported that state monitors conducted an extensive review of the district's federal programs the previous week, including school visits. One area identified for clarification was the district's travel and reimbursement procedures, where existing practices were not fully reflected in policy. The proposed revision aligns policy with current procedures by requiring program director approval for expenditures charged to federal programs, including IDEA, Perkins, and Title I. Dr. Winstead emphasized that

these approvals are already being obtained, but the requirement needed to be formally documented in policy.

c. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Winstead congratulated Bo Gillooly and Brian Davis on their election to the School Board and Isaac Simerly on his reelection. He also took time to recognize outgoing Board members Julie Elder and Bart Stinnett, expressing appreciation for their leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions to Maryville City Schools.

Dr. Winstead highlighted Mr. Stinnett's service during a period of significant progress, including substantial salary increases for employees and numerous facility improvements, such as the Fort Craig and Early Intervention Center renovations, roofing and HVAC upgrades, and expansions at Maryville High School and Sam Houston Elementary. He also recognized Mr. Stinnett's consistent support for teachers and staff.

Dr. Winstead thanked Mrs. Elder for her eight years of service, including three years as Board Chair. He highlighted her leadership during major projects, including expansions at John Sevier Elementary, Foothills Elementary, and Maryville Junior High School, as well as the new baseball facility and fundraising efforts for the Alexander Performing Arts Center. He also acknowledged her leadership through the challenges of the pandemic and difficult decisions made under intense scrutiny, noting her unwavering commitment to students and staff.

Dr. Winstead emphasized that their leadership has helped position the district for continued success, with facilities designed to meet future needs and a healthy fund balance. He concluded by personally thanking both members for their time, energy, and service, expressing hope that they would reflect with pride on the difference they have made in Maryville City Schools and the community.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Maryville High School

Maryville High School sent 25 student delegates to the Model United Nations competition in Chattanooga in late October. Elizabeth Tisdale and Alex Autry served as conference staff members, leading committees, while Neveah Beltran, Peggy Chen, and Evan Sexton earned awards. Dr. Oldham helped lead this valuable experience for students.

Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School

Six MRIS students were selected for the 2026 ETSBOA Junior Clinic Orchestra: Matthew Philips (6th grade) and Sehoy Fillingim, Thessaly Goodmiller, Adriana Hernandez, Runo Takeuchi, and Zay Thomas (7th grade).

Additionally, 14 students earned spots in the Junior Clinic Honor Bands:

- **Gold Band:** Josiah White, Thea Traver, Eliot Rasnake, Kale Nerey, ZJ Hawkins, Levi Janson, and Max Borovy
- **Silver Band:** Xavier Leichman and Rylan Shirley
- **Bronze Band:** Rin Matsuda, Jaylen Odom, Liam Hogan, Davin La Monica, and Parker Arie

Foothills Elementary School

Foothills Elementary celebrated another successful Raccoon Romp fundraiser. Students and families enthusiastically participated, raising funds to support programs, experiences, and opportunities for the Foothills school community.

John Sevier Elementary School

John Sevier Elementary celebrated the success of its cookie dough fundraiser with bounce houses for students on November 2. Through the generous support of families and the community, the PTO raised more than $40,000 for the school. The school's next fundraiser, the Foxtrot, is scheduled for the spring.

Districtwide Elementary Recognition – i-Ready Stretch Growth

Sam Houston, Foothills, and John Sevier Elementary Schools were recognized by i-Ready for exceptional Stretch Growth during the 2025–2026 school year. Only six schools statewide earned this distinction, with three representing Maryville City Schools. Stretch Growth measures ambitious academic progress, helping students below grade level move toward proficiency while encouraging continued growth among students already meeting or exceeding expectations. This recognition reflects the dedication of students, teachers, staff, and families across all three schools.

Montgomery Ridge and Coulter Grove Intermediate Schools – Volunteer Tennessee Award Nominations

Montgomery Ridge and Coulter Grove Intermediate Schools were nominated for the Volunteer Tennessee Award of Excellence for Volunteerism and Service-Learning in recognition of their commitment to community service. During the 2025–2026 school year, students at both schools contributed approximately 3,910 volunteer hours, serving organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and local shelters. Their efforts also included mentoring younger students, supporting families in need, and volunteering within their schools. Regardless of the award outcome, both schools were commended for their outstanding dedication to serving others and making a positive impact on the community.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Candy Morgan thanked Mr. Myers, Mr. Goodin, and Ms. Kite for hosting the meeting and sharing their school's initiatives. She referenced a recent TSBA conference, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the practices and strategies that lead to improved student outcomes. She commended the school's efforts in this area and encouraged them to remind teachers that they are part of a profession that makes all other professions possible. Ms. Morgan also expressed heartfelt appreciation to outgoing Board members Julie Elder and Bart Stinnett for their dedicated service and the lasting impact they have made on the school district and community.

Isaac Simerly thanked Principal Kevin Myers and Assistant Principals Logan Goodin and Katie Kite for their presentation, particularly complimenting the video. He reflected on the significant accomplishments achieved during Bart Stinnett's and Julie Elder's service on the Board. He described Mr. Stinnett as a steady and compassionate presence and expressed appreciation for his friendship. He praised Ms. Elder for her preparation, thoughtfulness, and dedication. Mr. Simerly also reflected on the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, expressing gratitude for their leadership and the efforts made to support students and families during that difficult time.

Student Representative Caroline Carver expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit Montgomery Ridge and hear about the school's progress, praising the district's principals for their outstanding leadership. She also thanked Board member Julie Elder, sharing that she will be greatly missed.

Nick Black thanked Principal Kevin Myers and his team for hosting the meeting and sharing their presentation. He praised the video and its message, expressing excitement about the school's focus on the student experience during the upcoming transition, as well as its emphasis on using data and assessments to improve instruction. He commended the accomplishments taking place across the district and expressed appreciation for the dedication of administrators, teachers, and staff. He also recognized the success of the district's athletic programs, praising Coach Martin and the XC team, and highlighted the annual Raccoon Romp as an example of the strong community support for Maryville City Schools.

Mr. Black also expressed heartfelt appreciation to outgoing Board members Bart Stinnett and Julie Elder, reflecting on their longstanding connections to Maryville City Schools as former students, parents, and active community supporters. He recognized their involvement in school organizations, athletics, and the Foundation before their service on the Board. He emphasized that their lasting contributions extend beyond facility improvements to their unwavering support for students, teachers, and families. He thanked both members for their years of dedication and service, noting the lasting impact they have made on the district.

Bart Stinnett reflected on his experiences with Maryville City Schools as a student, parent, and MCS School Board member, describing his time on the Board as one of the most meaningful experiences of his life. He shared that gaining a deeper understanding of the work taking place behind the scenes had been both eye-opening and rewarding. He encouraged incoming Board members Brian Davis and Bo Gillooly

to embrace the experience, noting that their service would impact them in ways they could not yet imagine. Mr. Stinnett concluded by expressing heartfelt appreciation to fellow Board members, district administrators, and staff, describing them as family and sharing how honored he had been to serve alongside them.

Julie Elder

Julie Elder thanked Principal Kevin Myers and his team for their presentation and expressed excitement about the upcoming transition at Montgomery Ridge. Reflecting on her eight years of service, she thanked the citizens of Maryville for the opportunity to serve, describing it as both an honor and a blessing. She emphasized the important responsibility of School Board members in making decisions that shape students' educational experiences and futures, often requiring difficult choices.

Ms. Elder expressed appreciation for Dr. Winstead's vision and leadership, as well as the dedication of district administrators, principals, teachers, teaching assistants, and staff. She shared that her experiences had deepened her understanding of what makes a school system successful and emphasized that employees are the foundation of the district's success. She also thanked her fellow Board members for their shared commitment to providing the best possible opportunities and facilities for students.

Ms. Elder concluded by reflecting on the district's accomplishments and expressing confidence in its future. Referencing a quote from Jon Gordon about believing the best days are ahead, she shared her belief that Maryville City Schools' best days are still to come. She expressed pride in what the district has accomplished and gratitude for the opportunity to be part of something so special, noting that she looks forward to continuing to support and cheer on Maryville City Schools.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24
Respectfully submitted by: Maria Greene