

**Minutes  
Clarksville-Montgomery County  
Board of Education**

**December 8, 2009**

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, December 8, 2009, in the Board Room, 621 Gracey Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: James Mann, Chairman; Ernest Brockman, Eula Gardner Dowdy, Jimmie Garland, George Giles, and Carol Smithson. Also present were: Michael Harris, Director of Schools; Jill Nolan, Board Attorney; B. J. Worthington, Chief Academic Officer; Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Bruce Jobe, Chief Human Resources Officer; David Holman, Chief Technology Officer; and Teresa Rawls, Secretary, who kept the minutes of the meeting. The following members of the County Commission School Liaison Committee were present: Jerry Allbert, Dwain Etterling, John Genis, Dalton Harrison, and Keith Politi.

**Point of Pride**

Mr. Richard McWhirter, Student Activities Coordinator, presented a Point of Pride Award to Mr. Artie Manning. Mr. Manning has been inducted into the Tennessee Wrestling Hall of Fame after years of supporting wrestling in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. Mr. Manning became the Assistant Wrestling Coach for Clarksville High School in 1968. In 1989 he started the first USA Freestyle Wrestling Kids Club. In three years the club grew to 111 participants between six and eighteen years old. Several State Champions came from this organization in 1991 and 1992. He has remained actively involved in local, regional, and state level competitions as since 1993.

Communications Director Elise Shelton presented a Point of Pride award to Katie Kennedy, Rossvie High School Senior. Katie won the Miss Rossvie High title and the Miss Tennessee High School pageant. She will go on to compete in the national competition in Branson, Missouri in March.

**Public Conversation**

There were no requests to address the Board at this session.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Garland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Giles, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried 6-0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- November 10, 2009 regular session minutes
- Intergovernmental transfer of surplus property, first reading December 1, 2009
- Adjustment to 2010-2011 School Calendar, first reading December 1, 2009

**Policy Monitoring**

Mr. Harris commented on EL-1 – Global Executive Constraint. He noted that Board members had been given a new monitoring report at the Board meeting replacing the one sent in the agenda packet. The new monitoring report reflected a change in the company that conducts the independent performance audits. ABS Quality Systems has

been replaced by QMI-SAI Global. Mrs. Dowdy made a motion to declare full compliance with this executive limitation for this reporting period. The motion, seconded by Mr. Garland, carried 6-0.

### **Reports**

Communications Director Elise Shelton presented a report on Strategic Goal #12 – Expand district website multimedia features. Mrs. Shelton commented that Focus Video is one of the keynotes of the multimedia features. This site was launched in May and there have been 5,000 unique visitors and over 40 videos have been posted. There is a new feature which allows a person to receive new information as it becomes available. Focus videos can be shared on e-mail and other websites such as Twitter, Facebook, etc. A new calendar drop down has been added to make it easier for parents to navigate. There are several feedback opportunities available through the website as well including feedback to the proposed rezoning. Mrs. Shelton showed where to access the Education Foundation page via the CMCSS website. Donations to the Foundation can be made online as well. Future plans include the capability for schools to upload their own videos to the website.

### **Board Discussion and Consideration**

The Board considered the Race to the Top Memorandum of Agreement. This had been presented to the Board on December 1 for first reading. Mr. Harris responded to questions that Board members had submitted. He commented on some of the possible ways these funds, if received, might be used including a STEM program and any other programs that would help to ensure our schools meet adequate yearly progress. Mrs. Dowdy made a motion for the Board to approve the Memorandum of Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland. Board members were allowed an opportunity to comment. Board members noted their concerns that districts had not been given enough specific information or time for deliberation of the Memorandum of Agreement. They also noted, however, that not being able to apply for funds was not in the best interests of the district. Mr. Mann called for the vote, and the motion carried 6-0.

### **Comments**

**CMCEA President** Ted Gilcrest stated that the Association also had concerns about the Race to the Top MOA that he, too, was required to sign in order for the district to be considered for funds should they become available. He stated that our children always need more funds, more programs, more student achievement availability through their teachers and administrators and that he would sign the document.

**County Commissioner** John Genis commented on the school system website. During a recent trip he had made out of state, he had an opportunity to share our website with a Board member in another state. Mr. Genis said that the material found on the website made a positive impact and will possibly be used to motivate their district to follow some of the initiatives CMCSS has in place.

### **Board Member Comments**

Mr. Giles thanked everyone that works with the students of this district for the tremendous job they do. Ms. Smithson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and recommended that people take advantage of attending one of the special programs in

the schools during the holiday season. Mr. Garland commented on the GED graduation that he had attended the previous weekend. He encouraged everyone to attend the next graduation. Mr. Mann thanked everyone for their work this year for the students in the school system. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Mr. Mann also recognized two boy scouts in the audience.

**Director of Schools Report**

No report presented at this session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

James T. Mann  
Board Chair

Michael T. Harris  
Director of Schools

Teresa A. Rawls  
Board Secretary