

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

June 8, 2010

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, June 8, 2010, in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: James Mann, Chairman; Ernest Brockman, Eula Gardner Dowdy, Jimmie Garland, and Horace Murphy, Jr. Also present were: Michael Harris, Director of Schools; Jill B. Ayers, Board Attorney; Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; David Holman, Chief Technology Officer; and Teresa Rawls, Board 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, and Keith Politi.

Point of Pride

Dr. Sallie Armstrong, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced PASS teachers Donna McEndree, New Providence; Donna Myers, Kenwood Middle; Traci Koon, Richview; Mike Cleghorn, WCMS; and Laura Hoffman, MCMS; along with their students; and Consulting Teacher Bonnie Digby who supports the middle school PASS programs. Dr. Armstrong explained that the middle school PASS programs were involved in "Project Citizen" this school year. These schools represented CMCSS in the State Showcase Hearings in Nashville. There were approximately 700 students from across the state competing. For their projects, students determine an area of concern or problem in their community and spend the year coming up with reasonable and workable solutions for the problem. From our 7th grade PASS program, three portfolios scored "excellent" from Kenwood, New Providence, and Richview. Three portfolios scored "superior" which means they will move on to the next round of judging. These portfolios were from West Creek Middle, Richview, and Montgomery Central Middle. Students also had the opportunity to visit with Senator Tim Barnes at the State Capitol, hold a mock debate and vote on a bill, and were invited to sit in the chairs of the members of the House of Representatives in their chamber.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Garland, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the May 11, 2010 regular session minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Policy Monitoring

Mr. Harris presented highlights from the monitoring report for EL-8 – Commitment to Accomplishment, Accountability, Accreditation, and Reporting to the Public. He stated that during this school year approximately 30 key performance indicators had been monitored by the senior leadership team. The End of Year Review should be available

to the Board next month. The TSIP school accountability process is still in place. He noted that the school system had undergone another successful ISO certification audit this year. Next year, however, the ISO audit will not be done due to budget cuts to the ISO program. Mr. Harris commented that a comprehensive plan is being developed to distribute the functions of process management to others to ensure everything is left in place should the district be able to re-staff the program at a later date. Mr. Harris also commented that Focus Media continues to be an increasingly important method for communicating with the public. Performance-based budgeting has proven successful and will continue to be used. Mrs. Dowdy made a motion declaring full compliance with this executive limitation for this reporting period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and carried 5-0.

Reports

Communications Manager Michelle Newell reported on Strategic Goal 14 – Identify opportunities to increase parental involvement in middle and high schools. The goal is for parents to experience a greater sense of involvement. She stated the goal came about after meeting with the Parent Advisory Committee and getting their input. The District Survey was completed by 4300 parents. The results show that as students progress from elementary school to middle school and then on to high school, parents feel increasingly disconnected from their child's school experience. The parent group determined that the usage of PowerSchool would be the most effective way for parents to be involved in their child's education. Ms. Newell explained what information is available to parents through PowerSchool. A Connect-Ed survey of all student households revealed that while 86% of households have internet access, only 52% were using PowerSchool. The goal is to increase PowerSchool usage by 20% during the upcoming year. A video was developed to help make parents aware of PowerSchool and how to access the program.

Candy Johnson, Community Relations Coordinator and Education Foundation Director, presented the report for Strategic Goal 11 – Establish and increase quality community business partnerships. She stated the vision is to involve and engage more community members and organizations in supporting our schools. "Quality" is reflected in commitments, new commitments, and follow-through on commitments. A goal agreement form has been developed for Partners in Education and their schools to come up with goals together. She evaluates the progress towards these goals at mid-year and at the end of the year. She explained that Partners in Education is just one way for businesses and organizations to be involved in supporting schools. The Joe Heitz Toyota Pass and Go program is an example of other forms of involvement.

Community "road shows" were conducted last year where the public was invited to meet with Mr. Harris at various community centers and hear about the district goals, initiatives, and budget concerns. In addition, Ms. Johnson meets with the Diversity Communications Group and the Community Consortium during the year to bring information to these groups as well as receive input from them. The 100% Graduation initiative has become a community project with support from many businesses as well as individuals. "Business after School" events are held twice a year in a school setting

and provide an opportunity for business professionals to network with school leadership, Education Foundation members, and School Board members while seeing firsthand the ways students are learning in our schools.

This year \$83,000 in financial support was received from Partners in Education, and partners exceeded over 1,000 volunteer hours. The Education Foundation supporting the PIE programs has brought in \$47,000 in financial support this school year.

Board Discussion and Consideration

Mr. Harris commented that the item on the agenda, Application for Qualified School Construction Bonds for Carmel Elementary Construction, was being withdrawn from Board consideration. He explained that a review by district and County officials determined that applying for this funding would not be in the best interests of either entity.

Comments

Incoming CMCEA President Carol Berry introduced herself and shared her background. She stated that CMCEA had won three awards at the state convention this year.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Murphy commented on the possibility of looking into on-line textbooks rather than purchasing textbooks. Mr. Garland welcomed Ms. Berry and thanked County Commissioners for their support of the Montgomery Central High School renovation project. Mr. Mann commented on recently passed legislation. He also noted that Tennessee School Boards Association is working on developing a recognition award for volunteers.

Director of Schools Report

Mr. Harris told Board members that the district is still waiting on three key pieces of information concerning the budget. First, the June BEP estimates are expected by June 15. Sales tax data for April should be in next week as well. The third piece is closing the district books for the year at the end of June. Mr. Harris commented that we are looking at approximately \$2.5 million availability for capital projects next year.

The items on the agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

James T. Mann
Board Chair

Michael T. Harris
Director of Schools

Teresa A. Rawls
Board Secretary