

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

April 5, 2011

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, April 5, 2011, in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Jimmie Garland, Chairman; Josh Baggett; Ernest Brockman, Eula Gardner Dowdy, George Giles, Horace Murphy, Jr., and Carol Smithson. Also present were: Michael Harris, Director of Schools; Jill Ayers, Board Attorney; B. J. Worthington, Chief Academic Officer; Danny Grant, Chief Financial 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, Tommy Vallejos, Dalton Harrison, and Keith Politi.

Point of Pride

Dr. Rosalyn Evans, High School Director, presented a Point of Pride Award to Kenwood High School science instructor Shari Tharpe. Ms. Tharpe has been recognized by the Tennessee Academy of Science as Outstanding Secondary Science Teacher for Middle Tennessee.

Dr. Evans presented Point of Pride Awards to Clarksville High School students Allison Montague and Rain Dartt. These students participated in the state Mock Trial competition. Miss Montague was awarded second place in the Best Advocate for the Prosecution category and Mr. Dartt earned the Most Valuable Player award for his team. The team went on to the state competition after winning the district competition in February. The team is coached by Roy Buchanan.

Bonnie Digby, Special Education Consulting Teacher, presented Point of Pride awards to Northeast Middle School PASS students Brianna Tyre, Ariana Nelson, and Lauryn Jennings. This group won first place in the performance category at the district level at the Tennessee History Day state competition. Also recognized as qualifying for state competition were: Pete Corona, Colton Douthitt, Clinton VanWormer, Rachel Wilson, Alicia Alumbaugh, Vivian O'Brient, Austin Wall, Shelby Hale, Allison Schmittou, and Gabriel Duncan from Montgomery Central Middle. From Northeast Middle - Brianna Tyre, Ariana Nelson, Lauryn Jennings, Lindsey Rice, Victoria Noyes, Cori Fulford, Ashley Gillam, Justin Doane, Makagin Gray, Arizona Hurn, and Molly Maine. New Providence PASS Students - Gabby Holgado, Rhett Timmons, and Joshua Lococo. Richview PASS Students - Andrew Bagwell, Nigel Nyberg, Ally Smith, Madison Ray, Lauren Snapp, Mary-Megan Miller, Sarah Lindsay, Mason Luna, Mitchell Muhlada, and Rachel Taylor. Rossvie Middle PASS Students Samuel Beohms, Akash Patel, Christian Bricker, Ben Munoz, and David Zhang WCMS PASS Students - Nicholas Raines, Zachary Koziol, and Trenton Thomas. PASS Teachers are Laura Hoffman, Whitney Joyner, Donna McEndree, Tabitha Wilson, Cindy Giles, and Mike Cleghorn.

Chief Financial Officer Danny Grant presented a Point of Pride awards to Child Nutrition Director Debbie Mobley. Mrs. Mobley has been selected as an Alliance Director with the Alliance for School Food Service Leadership. Mrs. Mobley was chosen for this national recognition based on the high standard she has had for innovation, commitment to excellence, and more.

Chief Academic Officer B. J. Worthington shared a moment of pride from Assistant Principal Matt Sleigh at West Creek High School. Mr. Sleigh had written a letter sharing with the WCHS faculty his pride as he witnessed two events in one day. The first was a student signing to play football with a college. The second was a special needs student signing his name for the first time. Each event was significant in the lives of the students. In his letter he thanked the faculty for all of their efforts to help each of these students achieve this moment.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Dowdy made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed unanimously. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- March 8, 2011 regular session minutes
- Textbook Adoption Certification, first reading March 29, 2011
- TCAP Percentage for Students in Grades 3-8, first reading March 29, 2011

Reports

Goal 9 – Continue implementation of energy conservation strategies

Norm Brumblay, Facilities Manager, presented the report for this goal. Mr. Brumblay outlined the background of the program, cost avoidances that have been achieved, the Smart Energy Campaign, second quarter results, and next steps for this goal. The goal of developing and beginning an energy management policy was part of the 2008-2009 strategic goals. In 2009-2010 the district strategic goal was to implement district-wide energy conservation strategies. This year the goal as stated is to continue implementation of the district-wide energy conservation strategies. Strategies implemented include identifying “energy champions” at each facility as part of the “Going Green” initiative. A “Going Green” resources page is in place on the CMCSS website. Policies for set point heating and cooling, start up and shut down work instructions for custodians and kitchen staff, and tracking and assessing energy consumption data are a few of the strategies that have been implemented. A 5.1% cost avoidance was achieved for HVAC consumption. Energy conservation will continue to be part of the district culture.

Board Discussion and Consideration

Naming Recommendation for Elementary School #23 – Mr. Harris noted that the staff recommendation is Spring Creek Elementary. Mr. Murphy placed the name Pisgah in nomination. Mr. Giles placed the name Spring Creek in nomination. The Board members voting for Pisgah were Mrs. Dowdy, Mr. Brockman, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Garland. Board members voting for Spring Creek were Mr. Baggett, Ms. Smithson, and Mr. Giles. Pisgah Elementary received the majority vote of the Board and will be the name of elementary school #23.

Robin Crossett Appeal to the Board – Mrs. Ayers reminded the Board that Mr. Harris had brought charges against Robin Crossett, a tenured teacher. The Board voted that if the charges as presented were true, they did warrant dismissal of the teacher. Ms. Crossett then asked for a hearing before an impartial hearing officer. That hearing took place with the hearing officer offering the opinion that the charges were justified and Ms. Crossett was dismissed. Mrs. Ayers stated that under the law, the teacher now has the opportunity to ask the Board to hear her appeal. Mrs. Ayers further stated that no new evidence was to be introduced at this time, but attorneys for each party had five minutes to present their side.

Attorney Peter Napolitano represented Ms. Crossett. Mr. Napolitano stated he believed CMCSS Procedure TCH-P027 had been violated by Mr. Jobe and Mr. Harris and Ms. Crossett should be reinstated.

Mrs. Carol Joiner spoke on behalf of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. Mrs. Joiner stated there had been no violation of the procedure and that Ms. Crossett knowingly violated the terms of the Technology Acceptable Usage policy.

Mrs. Ayers reminded the Board they had been furnished a copy of the entire record a week prior. She told the Board that they could make a decision on the appeal anytime within ten working days. Mrs. Dowdy made a motion that the Board vote on the matter at this time. Ms. Smithson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Dowdy then made a motion to uphold the Director's and the Hearing Officer's recommendation for termination of the tenured employee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Giles and carried 7-0.

Comments

CMCEA President Carol Berry commented on activities and training the association has been involved in during the past month that will impact students.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Baggett expressed his thanks to students, instructors, and nutrition staff that participated in the Point of Pride awards tonight. Mrs. Dowdy commented that the Business After School event at Moore went well and she thanked the students that participated.

Mr. Giles commented on the positive experience he had attending the PASS event over the past weekend. Mr. Murphy thanked the teachers and students at Moore Magnet school for their presentations during the Business After School event last week. Mr. Garland commented that CMCSS is the best school system in the state of Tennessee. He said this is due to the caliber of teachers as well as staff at central office. He stated that he is proud to be a part of this team.

Director of Schools Report

Mr. Harris commented on the impressive West Creek High School JROTC students during an inspection he had witnessed earlier in the day. Mr. Harris noted that the upcoming Board sessions would be covering the 2011-2012 budget request for various funds.

Upon completion of the items on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Jimmie M. Garland
Board Chair



Michael T. Harris
Director of Schools

Teresa A. Rawls
Board Secretary