

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

**October 8, 2013**

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, September 17, 2013, in the Board Room, 621 Gracey Avenue, Clarksville, TN. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: George Giles, Chairman; Josh Baggett, Eula Gardner Dowdy, Jimmie Garland, Stephanie Lobdell, Horace Murphy, Jr., and Anne Murtha. Also present were: B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Jill Ayers, Board Attorney; Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Jeanine Chester, 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: Robert Gibbs, Joe Creek, Tommy Vallejos, and Ron Sokol.

**Point of Pride**

Dr. Worthington presented a Point of Pride to Board member Eula Gardner Dowdy. Mrs. Dowdy has served on the CMCSS School Board for twenty-five years. Dr. Worthington noted that Mrs. Dowdy has overseen search committees for Director of Schools, served as Board Chair, and has reached the highest level of distinction a School Board member in the State of Tennessee may achieve. Dr. Worthington was joined by Representative Joe Pitts and Senator Mark Green in congratulating Mrs. Dowdy for her years of service in advocating for public schools and for children.

Dr. Rosalyn Evans, High School Director, presented a Point of Pride award to Montgomery Central High School math instructor Mike Brown. Mr. Brown is the Tennessee Department of Education's nominee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. If selected, he will be honored at the White House. The national awards will be announced in the spring.

Elementary Education Director Ann Griffin recognized Sango Elementary School as one of five schools in CMCSS that have earned distinction as a Reward School for the State of Tennessee. Sango achieved this distinction for performance. This category is based on student achievement during a one-year period. Middle College at Austin Peay State University was also recognized for the Reward School distinction for performance. This distinction means these schools are in the top 5% in the state. Representative Pitts and Senator Green congratulated the schools for this achievement.

**Public Conversation**

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

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

On a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Baggett, items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved. Consent Agenda included:

- September 7, 2013 regular session minutes
- Resolutions for depository Authorizations (3) approving elected Board Chairman on accounts, first reading October 1, 2013.

### **Policy Monitoring**

EL-4 – Financial Planning/Budgeting – Dr. Worthington presented the monitoring report for this Executive Limitation. On a motion by Mr. Garland, seconded by Ms. Murtha, the Board unanimously declared full compliance for this Executive Limitation for this reporting period.

EL-10 – Learning Environment and Student Discipline/Safety – Dr. Worthington presented the monitoring report. Dr. Worthington commented on training that had been conducted in compliance with an OCR finding two years ago. He stated that he is waiting for final confirmation from OCR that this finding has been closed out. Mr. Murphy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dowdy, declaring full compliance for this Executive Limitation for this reporting period. The motion carried 7-0.

### **Reports**

#### **Goal 4 – Expand STEM integration in Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade**

STEM Coordinator Dale Rudolph noted that the STEM program in CMCSS is unique. She stated that the success we are having is due to the teachers along with the business community that all want to support this work. STEM in CMCSS is designed to be sustainable when federal funding runs its course. STEM is rigorous with science and math integrated in the curriculum. The problem-solving process is embedded in instruction. STEM teaching builds critical, analytical, and creative thinking skills in students.

Mrs. Rudolph provided information about STEM work completed over the summer. Camps were conducted for students at several locations. STEM trainings for third through ninth grade teachers were conducted over the summer. A workshop was conducted by APSU for 7<sup>th</sup> grade math and science teachers. Moore Magnet and Kenwood Middle Schools presented at two national conferences in Atlanta and St. Louis. Externship opportunities were made available to over one hundred fifth, eighth and ninth grade teachers. West Creek Middle School teachers Lindsey Wickard and Amanda Ferguson shared their summer externship experiences and how they are applying what they learned in the classroom. CHS Assistant Principal Shari Tharpe, a former Kenwood High STEM teacher, described her summer work as a mentor to middle school teachers. In doing this work, she was able to tie the curriculum to industry and then develop how to use this knowledge in the classroom. The STEM Academy students had opportunities over the summer to attend a camp based on the chemistry of agriculture and to participate in the UT STEMposium in Nashville.

STEM has been integrated into sixth grade, and an additional grade level in elementary schools. STEM is now in grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Funds have been made available to use for professional development purposes. After school programs including Science Olympiad and Robotics are continuing. The Middle Tennessee STEM Hub has assisted with professional and

student learning opportunities this year. In December, fourth grade students will participate in a STEM Challenge at APSU. APSU, in partnership with CMCSS, will hold The Great STEM Exhibition in May. STEM Expos and STEM Family Nights are being held to extend STEM learning outside of the school day. Mrs. Rudolph said that the future will hold even more opportunities for students and teachers.

**Board Member Comments**

Mr. Giles presented outgoing Chairman Horace Murphy, Jr. with a plaque in appreciation for his leadership during the past year.

Mr. Baggett thanked Mrs. Dowdy for her years of service. Mr. Garland added his appreciation for Mrs. Dowdy's service in making CMCSS one of the best districts in the nation. Mr. Giles commented on the positive reports and awards that were presented during the Board meeting.

**Director of Schools Report**

Dr. Worthington gave Board members a copy of the "About CMCSS" brochure which contains facts and highlights for the school system. Dr. Worthington congratulated Mrs. Dowdy for her twenty-five years on the Board and thanked her for her service to the children of Montgomery County. He reminded everyone that the meeting scheduled for October 22 had been cancelled.

Items on the agenda having been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



George Giles  
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington  
Director of Schools

Teresa A. Rawls  
Board Secretary