

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

January 14, 2014

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, January 14, 2014 in the Board room, central administration offices, 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: Joe Creek, Robert Gibbs and Ron Sokol.

Point of Pride

Chief Academic Officer Sean Impeartrice recognized APSU President Tim Hall and State Representative Joe Pitts with a Point of Pride Award. Both individuals were instrumental in assisting CMCSS in submitting and receiving a \$40,000 grant in the Tennessee College Access and Success Grant. The grant funds dual enrollment fees for students in Middle College High School at APSU and in the STEM Academy at Kenwood High. Representative Pitts alerted CMCSS to the grant opportunity and has provided immeasurable support through his service on the Tennessee House Education Subcommittee. President Hall has been a staunch supporter of Middle College at APSU. He has given access to the STEM Center at APSU for teacher training and has assisted with grants where CMCSS has partnered with the university.

Dale Rudolph, CMCSS STEM Coordinator, presented Point of Pride Awards to Alaric Kliinghard, APSU Athletics Marketing and Promotions Coordinator; Martha McIlveene, Director of the APSU STEM Center; and Sheila Pirkle, APSU Science Education Professor. A fourth individual, Derek van der Merwe, was unable to attend. Mrs. Rudolph recognized these individuals for their support of the Fourth Grade STEM Challenge which was held at the Dunn Center on December 4. CMCSS students were provided a platform to demonstrate their completion of a very exciting STEM challenge. They provided personnel through student athletes as well as pre-service teachers. They also provided some of the materials and equipment that CMCSS did not have. Four hundred students participated in the event.

Dr. Susan Jones, Professional Development Coordinator, recognized CMCSS New Teacher Induction Coordinator Amy McWhirter with a Point of Pride Award in recognition of having received the Chidley Fund Academy Scholarship from the Learning Forward Academy. Learning Forward is the premiere international nonprofit association of professional developers and educators. The \$3,500 scholarship covers her participation in the 2015 academy. The

scholarship is awarded to district leaders whose work allows them to influence improved student achievement through educators working with underserved students.

Exceptional Children Services Coordinator Robin Fairclough recognized board members from the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome (CAD) to receive a Point of Pride Award. This group provides support to families with Down syndrome members in the Montgomery County and surrounding area. Last spring they encouraged teachers to apply for a grant for an I-Pad for their classroom. Nine teachers were awarded I-pads last year, and sixteen have been granted this school year.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Lobdell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried 7-0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- December 10, 2013 regular session minutes
- Construction and utility easement at Norman Smith Elementary, first reading January 7, 2014
- Construction delivery method- Oakland Elementary School, first reading January 7, 2014

Policy Monitoring

Dr. Worthington presented the policy monitoring reports for Executive Limitation 2 – Communicating with the Public and Executive Limitation 9 – School Year Calendar noting evidence of compliance with each executive limitation. Mr. Baggett made a motion to declare compliance with EL-2 for this reporting period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland. Mr. Murphy made a motion declaring compliance with EL-9 for the current reporting period. His motion was seconded by Mr. Baggett. Each motion passed 7-0.

Reports

The report for Goal 1 – Implement Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and mathematics was presented by Secondary Curriculum Director Dayna Paine along with Sango Elementary Principal Emily Vaughn, Northeast Middle Principal Tracy Hollinger, and Rossvie High School Principal Frank Myers. Ms. Paine described what Common Core Standards are expected to achieve for the 46 states that have adopted them. She explained the changes in standards and how they have affected the classroom. Currently, the district is transitioning to the Common Core standards from the Tennessee Diploma Project standards. Common Core standards in English/language arts involve more in-depth discussion, use of evidence, and use of complex texts. Differences on assessments from current standards to Common Core were shown. Math is shifting to the expectation of students to build a more conceptual concrete understanding of math and to use these fundamentals in solving problems. Each principal provided information on how their schools are implementing Common Core in their specific grade levels and how learning is different from current standards.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Baggett thanked the principals for their presentations on the Common Core noting it was the most informative he had heard thus far. Mrs. Dowdy, as a former teacher and parent of a student at each level, thanked the principals for their presentations to help clarify Common Core. Ms. Murtha commented on the difficulty of the examples of high school reading materials. Mrs. Lobdell commented on the importance of the training for teachers and preparing of parents for the Common Core standards. Mr. Garland stated that he now understands what the transition to Common Core has meant in training from staff to principals and down to the classroom level. He thanked the principals and staff for what they do every day.

Mr. Giles commented on his appreciation for the cooperation between the school system and APSU in providing more opportunities for students. He also commented that the transition to Common Core standards is probably the most difficult the district has gone through but added he believed staff is doing a good job and students will be the better for it.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington commented on the transition to Common Core standards and his belief that CMCSS principals and teachers were somewhat prepared for the change as the district has had an emphasis on rigor and relevance and STEM for several years. He also noted the district has worked on balanced assessment in recent years.

Dr. Worthington gave Board members a timeline of the high school academy recruiting plans for this year. He stated that on January 30, the academies would be featured at the Business After School event at Clarksville High School. He noted that Premier Medical and the Education Foundation have provided one-to-one computers for the Health Sciences Academy at Northwest High School. A video showcasing the high school academies was shown.

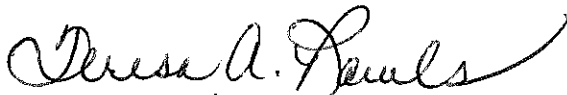
The items on the agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



George Giles
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Teresa A. Rawls
Board Secretary