

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

January 13, 2015

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, January 13, 2015, in the Board Room, central administration offices, 621 Gracey Avenue, Clarksville, TN. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Jimmie Garland, Chairman; Josh Baggett, Eula Gardner Dowdy, Willie Freeman, George Giles, Stephanie Lobdell, and Anne Murtha. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Jill Ayers, Board Attorney; Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Jeanine Johnson, 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, John Gannon, Robert Gibbs, Ron Sokol, and Tommy Vallejos.

Point of Pride

Middle School Director Mary Gist presented Point of Pride Awards to Northeast Middle School PASS teacher Whitney Joyner and Northeast High School sophomore Scott Moore. The two have been officially accepted as part of the Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Normandy Institute. Fifteen pairs of students and teachers are selected nationwide for this honor. They will travel to Washington, D.C. during the summer to study D-Day and World War II. They will research an assigned soldier from this area who served in Normandy. They will also travel to France for further research and lectures and will lay a wreath at the American Cemetery.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Giles, seconded by Mr. Baggett, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- December 9, 2014 regular session minutes
- 2016-2017 School Year Calendar, first reading January 6, 2015

Board Discussion and Consideration

2015-2016 Zoning Proposal

Dr. Worthington commented that the 2015-2016 zoning proposal had been presented to the Board for first reading at the December 2, 2014 study session. Following the presentation to the Board, the proposal and maps were available in the affected schools and on the CMCSS website. The public is given opportunities to request more information and make comments. Every effort was made to contact those individuals and answer their questions and concerns. A public hearing was held on January 6, 2015. Dr. Worthington called on Chief Operations Officer Jim Sumrell to present the adjustments and final zoning recommendations following

consideration of all input. Mr. Sumrell commented no changes to middle and high schools zones were recommended for the 15-16 school year. Mr. Sumrell recapped the zoning recommendation for the new Oakland Elementary School. Mr. Sumrell stated the staff recommended no change to the boundary lines presented in the initial recommendation on December 2. Staff recommends that students in group 1, currently enrolled at Northeast Elementary and moving to Oakland under the zoning proposal, be offered attendance exceptions to remain at Northeast for the remainder of their elementary careers with parents providing their own transportation. Staff recommends currently enrolled Rossvie Elementary K-4 grade students identified in group 2 be offered attendance exceptions for the remainder of their elementary careers with families providing their own transportation. Mr. Sumrell explained that future development in the Hickory Wild subdivision would also be zoned for Oakland. Students identified in group 3, currently zoned for Rossvie Elementary and under the proposal moving to Carmel Elementary, will be offered attendance exceptions for currently enrolled K-4 students to remain at Rossvie through their elementary careers with parents furnishing transportation. Mr. Sumrell stated that in future zoning proposals, the district would be sensitive to students that had already experienced a rezoning.

Following the presentation, Mr. Giles made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 zoning proposal with attendance exceptions as presented. Mrs. Lobdell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Policy Monitoring

Dr. Worthington presented the monitoring report for EL-2 – Communicating with the Public. Mr. Baggett made a motion to declare full compliance with Executive Limitation 2 for the current reporting period. Ms. Murtha seconded the motion which carried 7-0.

Dr. Worthington presented the monitoring report for EL-9 – School Year Calendar. Dr. Worthington presented the monitoring report noting the guidelines used to prepare the school year calendars. Mrs. Dowdy made a motion declaring full compliance with Executive Limitation 9 for the reporting period. The motion was received a second from Ms. Murtha and passed unanimously.

Reports

Dr. Worthington commented that Dr. Mary Gist, Middle School Director, would be presenting a blended report covering Goal 1 – Implement Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and mathematics and Goal 3 – Align Balanced Assessment with Common Core implementation. Dr. Worthington stated that Common Core is halted at this time, but continues to be part of what is being taught in classrooms at this time.

Dr. Gist stated that Common Core Standards were adopted by the State of Tennessee in July 2010. They were implemented according to plan in K-2 in 2011-2012. The plan was for a gradual implementation in grades 3-8 in 2012-2014. During those years, districts were still assessed on Tennessee Diploma Standards. Full implementation of Common Core standards was scheduled for 2014-2015 with students being assessed using the PARCC assessment in

spring 2015. The state halted this plan in the spring of 2014. The Common Core standards were renamed the Tennessee Curriculum Standards in August 2014. These math and ELA standards along with the Tennessee Diploma standards are currently guiding education in grades 3-8. Proficiency will be measured with the TCAP assessment in spring 2015. Dr. Gist noted that Governor Haslam has made the Tennessee Curriculum Standards available for state-wide public review. The state website has recorded over 60,000 visitors. Feedback from this public review will be used to revise the standards during the summer of 2015. Dr. Gist added that the early word from the feedback is overwhelmingly in support of the standards as they are with only minor changes.

Dr. Gist reported that the State is bringing together teams from districts this semester for updates on assessment. The new state achievement assessment will be called TNReady. It will be implemented in 2016-2017. The Governor proposes that math and ELA test scores during this transition period should count less toward a teacher's score as the state transitions to the new test. The legislature will make this determination during the current legislative session.

Dr. Gist stated that progress on goal 1 to date includes a greater understanding by teachers of the curriculum standards along with more collaborative planning, sharing of lesson plans, and transparency among teachers. She added there is a better alignment of assessment, curriculum, and instructional strategies. Every school has hosted annual parent events since 2012 to inform parents about Common Core Standards and changes in standards. Dr. Gist reported next steps will be to continue to support teachers as revised standards are implemented and share updates with administrators and teachers as information is learned.

Dr. Gist commented that progress on goal 3 can be seen in the tremendous growth in teacher ability to create high-quality assessments aligned to standards; increased collaboration among teachers; a focus on assessment writing that has led to a creation of common assessment and a growing bank of questions for districtwide use. Next steps include improving the quality of assessment items, increasing the use of assessment data in re-teaching, and examining grading practices and policies across the district.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Baggett thanked the staff involved in the zoning proposal and final recommendation. He stated that he appreciated the time taken to look at all of the feedback and to make adjustments where possible to accommodate public while still doing the right thing for the population of the schools. Ms. Murtha commented that she understood the feelings of the public that live in the subdivisions close to Rossview, but believes that good decisions were made. Mr. Giles added his appreciation for the hard work on the zoning proposal and the changes made to the final recommendation to balance the interests of the students in a crowded building and the instruction going on in that building while knowing that no one wants to move.

Mr. Garland echoed the comments of the other Board members and stated that he believed the best interests of all children were considered in the zoning plan. Mr. Garland reminded Board members of the listening session on January 20 at Ft. Campbell and encouraged Board members to be present.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington thanked Mr. Sumrell and his team for the work put into the zoning proposal. Dr. Worthington noted that the TSBA Fall District Meeting was going to be held at Rossvie High School in September 2015. He also commented that he would be speaking on behalf of the off-post schools at the Ft. Campbell listening session on January 20 and shared a video to be shown that night. He stated that the quality of the schools would be emphasized along with school performance and opportunities available to all students.

The items on the agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Jimmie M. Garland
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools

Teresa A. Rawls
Board Secretary