

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

August 11, 2015

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, August 11, 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, Anne Murtha, and Stephanie Lobdell. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Jill Ayers, Board Attorney; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academic Officer; David Holman, Chief Technology Officer and Deb Cummings, 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

Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer, presented to Zach Whitaker (CMCSS video producer) a certification of recognition by the National School Public Relations Association. This year Zach received two awards of excellence, the highest honor, for video production. The two videos recognized for excellence were "Graduation 2014" and "Trisha Fields Spotlight." His amusing video "What is Retirement " was given an award of merit.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Giles and seconded by Ms. Murtha, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda 7 - 0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- July 21, 2015 regular session minutes
- Collaborative Conferencing Management Team, first reading 08/04/2015
- 2016 Retiree Insurance Guideline, first reading 08/04/2015

Reports

Dr. Worthington explained that this Executive Order was in response to an inaccuracy noted in the Student Code of Conduct. During a formatting change, an error was made in the student consequence for a zero-tolerance offense. The stated consequence in the code is a ninety-day remandment, but according to state law it is a one-calendar year offense. Dr. Worthington added this is the manner in which we have dealt with this in the past.

Goal 1 – Implement Tennessee Education Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

As an introductory, Dr. Worthington commented this is another step in the direction of altering our standards which will be taking place throughout the year. Hopefully, this will be the last tweak of these standards for a while and some continuity will be realized for our teachers and our students.

A presentation was given by Dayna Paine, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Paine began by describing where we currently are with the implementation of the TN standards. Ms. Paine explained there are three large components that have contributed to the changes in our standards. First, we live in a changing world and part of that changing world means that our students have access to information in a way that they haven't had information previously. Therefore, more twenty-first century rigorous skills are required for our students. Secondly, the Governor has given us the challenge to make TN the fastest growing state in the union as far as achievement of students. And third, TN has adapted the TN Promise in which students who are academically eligible will be able to continue onto college for two years.

Graphics shows where we have been over the last three years. 2013-2014 we were still operating under the TN Diploma Program for all subject areas in all grades except K-2nd and they were operating under common core standards. We did at that time drop the SPI's that were not tested by the state but we began to introduce the common core standards. Last year all of our students in all of our schools worked under 100% common core but they were tested on TDP standards. There was a big disconnect last year because we were basically teaching two different sets of standards. We were really working with common core to give our students the in depth understanding of where they needed to be and we were also working with the TN Diploma Program standards in the SPI's.

The big shifts in English Language Arts really relate to students building their knowledge in all disciplines using both reading and writing. There are standards in English Language Arts as well as literacy standards in Social Studies and Science and in our technical subjects and students will be asked to use evidence from what they read in order to defend what they are writing. We are also working around what we call an integrated model of literacy which means things are no longer taught in isolation. We don't teach reading separately from writing. We know that students will consume information from reading so they will gather the information that they need through reading but then will be able to express what they have learned through writing.

Moving on to Math shifts, vital pieces include development of conceptual understanding to be able to use it correctly when problem solving, mathematical tasks, and connect math learning from one year to the next as well as applying math skills appropriately.

To assist our teachers, we have developed extensive planning around each curriculum guide. Curriculum navigator is a very exciting tool made available to parents and teachers. The site was developed as a resource to access the standards, clear targets, and item samplers for each unit taught within a particular course.

In summary, Ms. Paine noted 2015-2016 expectations include a higher level of learning for our students and more rigorous teaching in the classroom. This is the third set of standards for teachers in seven years which can cause shifts in what is being taught at different grade levels and can create gaps in learning. We could possibly see lower test scores during the transition years.

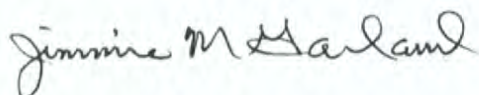
Comments

Mr. Giles thanked everyone for their hard work in getting ready for a successful opening day. Ms. Lobdell commented that she was very impressed with the TN State standards program and appreciated all the commitment and dedication put into this huge effort for the teachers and students. Ms. Lobdell also expressed kudos to Zach Whitaker for the awesome videos he produces and the telling stories behind them. Mr. Garland stated that if what he saw at Kenwood Middle School yesterday happened across the district it was going to be a phenomenal year for the students and teachers. He said it is truly a testament of the high standard of performance exhibited in Montgomery County as far as the education of our children. Mr. Garland complimented Mr. Sumrell on a job well-done controlling the cool air which has been a challenge. He commented that the Oakland facility is beautiful. Regarding the fact that TN is preparing and ready for test standards, Mr. Garland said it is because this district had the foresight to begin practicing the common core two to three years ago.

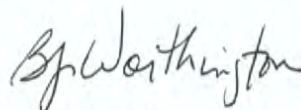
Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington concurred that it was an exciting and proud opening first day of school. All students got to school and returned home safely today. We had 30,450 which is 570 more than we had on opening day last year. Oakland did have a great opening this morning and the foyer was filled with excited kids and parents ready to go. Dr. Worthington stated we are also conducting our Back to School Tours where our strategic work is shared with everyone in the entire district and we celebrate showing videos how everyone can "Own the Difference."

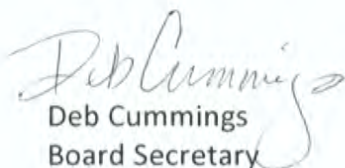
Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Garland adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.



Jimmie M. Garland
Board Chair



B.J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary