

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

**September 8, 2015**

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, September 8, 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. Members of the County Commission School Liaison Committee were not present as the County Commission meeting was scheduled on the same evening due to the holiday.

**Point of Pride**

High School Director, Shawn Heaston, presented the Point of Pride recognitions to five Clarksville high schools, represented by a total of 24 delegates who attended eight-hour study sessions, three days a week during their summer break. The following students competed and, because of their hard work and diligence, earned a spot in the nation's top 10 in these events:

**From Clarksville High School:**

- Clara Grigsby (12<sup>th</sup> grade) was 6<sup>th</sup> in Computer-Enhanced Photography.
- Justin Ladd (12<sup>th</sup> grade) was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Marathon and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 800 Meter.
- Lauren Snapp (12<sup>th</sup> grade) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Computer-Enhanced Photography, 4<sup>th</sup> in Watercolor, and 7<sup>th</sup> in Traditional Photography.
- Judith Long (12<sup>th</sup> grade) was 10<sup>th</sup> in Impromptu Art.

**From Northeast High School:**

- Riley Miller (Latin 3) was 1<sup>st</sup> in Greek History.

**From Rossvie High School:**

- Heston Friedland (Latin 4) was 5<sup>th</sup> in Greek History and 6<sup>th</sup> in Roman Life.
- Alexander Kee (Latin 4) was 1<sup>st</sup> in Advanced Latin Grammar and 4<sup>th</sup> in Vocabulary.
- Sarah Lee (Latin 1) was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Roman History, Greek History, and Greek Life & Literature as well as 6<sup>th</sup> in Latin Literature.
- Allie Levy (9<sup>th</sup> grade) was 5<sup>th</sup> in Charcoal, 8<sup>th</sup> in Acrylics/Oils, and 9<sup>th</sup> in Black Ink.
- Asa Ruiz (Latin 1) was 9<sup>th</sup> in Ancient Geography.
- Ian Slamen (Latin 3) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ancient Geography, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Greek History, 5<sup>th</sup> in Greek Life & Literature, and 8<sup>th</sup> in Roman History.
- Noah Stafford (Latin 1) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Latin Literature, 5<sup>th</sup> in Greek History, and 7<sup>th</sup> in both Ancient Geography and Roman Life.
- Hannah Vandebroek (Latin 1) was 9<sup>th</sup> in Greek History.

In addition to placing first in their Latin levels on their respective tests, Kee and Miller earned Best of Show honors for having the highest scores regardless of Latin level. They were literally the best in the country. Kee also earned a scholarship for his hard work over the past four years. The state of Tennessee was represented in Latin 1 quiz bowl by four Rossvie students (Lee, Ruiz, Stafford, and Brandon Zeedar), who made it to the semifinals. All of Clarksville's JCL delegates are to be lauded for their dedication, perseverance, and passion for learning and pushing themselves.

Dr. Bryan Johnson presented recognition of our new STEM Externships hosts that allowed our teachers to learn from them and take that learning back into the classroom for our students:

- Rich Holladay, Waterdogs Scuba and Safety LLC, who hosted Rossvie High teachers
- Christopher Burawa, Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts, APSU, who hosted Moore Magnet teachers
- Amy Wallace, Dunbar Cave Park, who hosted Kenwood Elementary teachers
- Larry Crowell and Faye Anderson, American Red Cross, who hosted Montgomery Central Middle teachers
- Carol Coats, Horse Barn at Camp Sycamore, who hosted Burt Elementary teachers

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System was notified earlier this month by the State Department of Education that 11 of its schools have been designated as reward schools. To receive this recognition, the schools have to be in the state's top five percent for annual academic achievement or growth in their academic proficiency rate. We will begin in September recognizing these schools beginning with three that were named Reward Schools for being in the state's top five percent of academic achievement. They include: Carmel Elementary and Hazelwood Elementary presented by Dr. Mason Bellamy and Middle College High School presented by Mr. Shawn Heaston.

### **Public Conversation**

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

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

On a motion by Ms. Dowdy and seconded by Mr. Freeman, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- August 11, 2015 regular session minutes
- Surplus Property , CMCSS School Bus #97 – 19 , first reading 08/25/2015

### **Policy Monitoring**

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation -11 – Capital Projects was read by Dr. Worthington. He commented that all limitations have been met for this policy. The motion was made by Mr. Baggett to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Mr. Giles. Motion passed 7 – 0.

## **Reports**

**Goal 9 – Begin Transition to Digital Blended Learning.** Dr. Bryan Johnson spoke to the Board with regard to where we are, the planning stages throughout the transition and what our next steps will be. Dr. Johnson explained that Digital Blended Learning is a combination of teacher-led and technology-enhanced instruction. The content and resources are developed and managed by teachers through an online Learning Management System (LMS) with multiple modalities for delivery. Digital Blended Learning is basically integrating what is already happening in the classroom to technology, to resources and to the curriculum. All of these things are merely incorporated into what a teacher currently does. The big “why” behind the shift in Digital Blended Learning is to place more focus on college and career readiness, increased student engagement, more personalized instruction, timely and adaptable intervention, access to current curriculum and assessment platform.

Currently both Moore Elementary and Kenwood High (STEM) are in their seventh year with refurbished devices. Northwest High is in their second year with devices because of a grant that was provided by Premier Medical and the Education Foundation. With these 3 schools specifically, the LMS is a hub that allows us to access the resources available like Schoology, Edulastic and Britannica. Forty-seven teachers have been selected to participate in a pilot and with training support from our tech integrated coaches will make monthly visits. Dr. Johnson stated that there is a Digital Blended Learning committee here at the district that meets regularly to explore best practices to ensure we are informed and adjust to any shifts needed. Next steps will include continued professional development, teacher focus groups, alternate funding and grants, researching devices, identify and integrate online resources into science and math and identify most valuable resources now in place.

## **Board Discussion & Consideration**

**Board Election of Officers** – Board Attorney Jill Ayers opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair for the term of October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016. The nominees for Board Chair were Mr. Garland nominated by Mr. Freeman and Mr. Baggett nominated by Mr. Giles. Mr. Garland received 2 votes and Mr. Baggett received 3 votes. Mr. Baggett will be the new Board Chair for October 2015 – September 2016.

Nominations were opened for Board Vice Chair. Ms. Murtha was nominated. No additional nominations were made. Ms. Murtha was elected unanimously.

**Online Fee Pay Processing Fee** – The Board was requested to waive the first reading. Dr. Worthington explained that in accordance with TCA 9-1-108(c) a processing fee must be assessed to parents to offset the expense associated with the use of the credit card pay option. This processing fee may be waived by the School Board as the governing body and there will be no cost to the parent or the district. Mr. Garland asked for a motion to waive the first reading which was made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Giles. Motion passed 7 – 0. Mr. Garland proceeded to request a motion to waive the Online Fee Pay processing fee to parents. A motion was made by Ms. Murtha and seconded by Mr. Giles. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**Comments**

Mr. Giles commented our Point of Pride Awards once again illustrates the type of school system Montgomery County has, the caliber of people employed and the product speaks for itself. Ms. Murtha commented on what a great job the ROTC did this evening and how impressive it is the type of program they represent. Mr. Baggett thanked the Board for their confidence and trust in voting him as the Board Chair for the next year. Mr. Garland thanked the Board for allowing him to be the Chair this past year. He continued by saying the valuable experience he has gained by sitting in the Chair seat is comparable to none and how rewarding it has been to work in a district that is forward-moving, aggressive and one that knows where they are trying to go. Mr. Garland closed by stating that to have child in our school system that is the best in our nation when it comes to academia is an achievement that would make any student, parent, Board and the community proud. The teachers and staff are making it happen and are to be commended as well.

**Director of Schools Report**

Dr. Worthington commended Mr. Garland and Ms. Murtha for their service this past year and thanked Ms. Murtha for her continuing role as Vice Chair. Dr. Worthington also congratulated Mr. Baggett in his new role as Chairman. In closing, Dr. Worthington complimented the ROTC for leading the Pledge of Alliance and reiterated the tremendous pride this community shares with the ROTC program.

Today, we had a record enrollment of 32,551 students which is the highest it has ever been.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Garland adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.



Jimmie M. Garland  
Board Chair



B.J. Worthington  
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings  
Board Secretary