

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

October 20, 2015

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education met Tuesday, October 20, 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: Josh Baggett, Chairman; Jimmie Garland, Eula Gardner Dowdy, Willie Freeman, George Giles, and Stephanie Lobdell. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Carol Joiner, representing 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; Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer and Deb Cummings, Secretary, who kept the minutes of the meeting. Members of the County Commission School Liaison Committee present were Robert Gibbs, Joe Creek, Ron Sokol and Tommy Vallejos.

Point of Pride

Dr. Worthington commented this evening we would be recognizing two more of our reward schools, Sango Elementary and Byrns Darden Elementary Schools. Dr. Mason Bellamy, Elementary Level Director, presented a certificate to Ms. Erin Hedrick, Principal Sango Elementary, and congratulated the school for being in the State's top five percent in academic growth. Beth Unfried, Elementary Level Director, recognized Byrns Darden Elementary as a rewards school also for being in the top five percent for achievement in academic proficiency. Byrns Darden Elementary was represented by Principal Andy Lyons and Assistant Principal Labraunda Dickerson.

Marcus Heaston, High School Level Director, recognized and congratulated Northwest High School Science teacher Constance Brown for being selected as the 2015 recipient of the ACS Division of Chemical Education Southeastern Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching award. Ms. Brown will receive a \$2,000 award and a memorial plaque at the SERMACS-SWRM luncheon in Memphis on November 6th.

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 Mr. Garland, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda 6-0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- September 8, 2015 regular session minutes
- Resolutions (3) for Depository Authorization, first reading 09/08/2015

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation - 4 – Financial Planning/Budgeting was reviewed with the Board by Dr. Worthington in which he explained that financial planning for any fiscal year shall align with the Board's Ends Policies, not risk fiscal jeopardy, nor fail to be derived from a multi-year plan. Dr. Worthington stated that all limitations have been met for this policy. The motion was made by Mr. Giles to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Ms. Dowdy. Motion passed 6 – 0.

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation – 10 – Learning Environment and Student Discipline/Safety, presented by Dr. Worthington, states the Director of Schools shall provide a safe learning environment conducive to effective learning. Accordingly, the Director of Schools shall develop, publish and annually distribute a written student Code of Conduct to all students and parents; assure that discipline policies are fairly and consistently enforced using reasonable judgment; develop and maintain emergency and disaster plans with regular testing of their effectiveness; minimize unnecessary disruption that encroaches on instructional time; prohibit illegal discrimination; and protect confidential information and records. Dr. Worthington stated that all limitations have been met for this policy. The motion was made by Mr. Giles to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Ms. Dowdy. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Further conversation: Mr. Giles asked regarding 10.1 Student Code of Conduct handbook if the stated 20% distribution of hard copies has been reduced since the information is available online for students and parents. Dr. Worthington responded that has already been addressed and next year the distribution of hard copies will be further reduced. Mr. Garland referred to 10.5 Prohibit Illegal Discrimination and asked for clarity. Does “illegal discrimination” mean the same as not to discriminate at all? Dr. Worthington responded that is correct.

Report

Goal 3 – Refine Assessment Practices to Align with TNReady Implementation. Dr. Worthington asked the group to recall information reported last month regarding this subject. He commented tonight’s report would be a continuation of working through the process, talking about the new standards that we are going to have and now aligning with the new assessment that begins in the spring. Emily Vaughn, K-8 Curriculum and Instruction Director, presented the report.

In 2013-2014, we had TN Diploma Project standards and those standards were assessed with TCAP assessment so they aligned at that time meaning we had one set of standards and one assessment. Last year we also continued with those standards (TN Diploma Project) but we then introduced the Common Core standards and those standards were Reading and Math. Our assessment still measured the TN Diploma Project but we continued to be held to one assessment.

This school year we are being assessed on what we are teaching so we continue to have TN Diploma Project standards, Science and Social Studies, and we will be assessed in the TCAP for those areas but also have the Common Core which is now the TN Education standards for Reading and Math. Those standards will be assessed on a new assessment call the TNReady. TNReady is designed to develop skills in line with college and work expectations; allows students to show what they know in new ways; provides better information for teachers and parents; and promotes real work problem-solving.

The district supports and provides assessment items to teachers that align to TN Education standards. Our curriculum navigator site was rebuilt to offer teachers resources that align to the standards and curriculum guides. Sample testing schedules have been provided to principals. The State has provided practice tools as well (MICA and MIST). Professional development opportunities have been provided to administrators and academic coaches. The assessment team has met with schools to create a plan to monitor instruction time during the assessment window. We provide parents with information about curriculum and assessment through resources such as our parent ambassador program, CMCSS communication groups and the CMCSS website.

Next steps :

- Continue to build assessment resources with teachers
- Create and administer district benchmark assessments to provide teachers data to inform instruction before State testing
- Deliver timely professional development to principals, academic coaches and teachers focused on the expectations of TNReady
- Continue to provide support to teachers both during and after school hours to build content knowledge as well as planning and assessment assistance
- Continue to work with schools to develop State assessment schedules that guarantee minimal learning disruptions while testing in February and April/May

Comments

Mr. Garland offered his thanks for the detailed and informative presentation on TNReady. He commented that over the last ten years the district has grown continuously because of the rigorous challenges presented which is why we are ahead of the trend. We still have work to do but are on the right track. Mr. Giles commented it is refreshing to see the reward schools here and congratulated them for all their hard work.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington reported on the following:

- The State Report Card will be released Thursday this week.
- Sunday, October 25, at 2:00 p.m., the Frank Sutton Library dedication will take place at Norman Smith Elementary.
- Congratulations to Elise Shelton and David Holman for an honorable mention which they received in a magazine called *Digital Innovations*. The focal point of the article was how effectively CMCSS utilizes our website to keep our parents engaged and informed.
- Friday, Oct 23, is our annual chili/soup day at the Central Office and the Board is welcome to join in the feast.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Baggett adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.



Joshua Baggett
Board Chair



B.J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary