

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

November 10, 2015

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, November 10, 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 Anne Murtha. 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 documented minutes of the meeting. Members of the County Commission School Liaison Committee present were Robert Gibbs, Joe Creek, Ron Sokol, John Gannon and Tommy Vallejos.

Point of Pride

Dr. Worthington began by stating we would be recognizing two more of our reward schools, Cumberland Heights Elementary and Kenwood Elementary. Dr. Mason Bellamy, Elementary Level Director, presented a certificate to Dr. Tonya Cunningham, Principal Cumberland Heights Elementary, and congratulated the Falcons for being in the State's top five percent in academic growth. Mrs. Beth Unfried, Elementary Level Director, recognized Kenwood Elementary Principal Kim Masters and Assistant Principal Tammy Mason as a reward school also for being in the top five percent for achievement in academic proficiency. Both schools were represented by numerous staff members.

Mr. Shawn Heaston, High School Level Director, recognized Clarksville High School's girls' soccer team for being state runner-up this year in the Class AAA tournament. The team was last year's champions and came close to repeating this year. Congratulations to the team and their coaches.

Three CMCSS recipients were recognized by the TSSAA. Mr. Shawn Heaston congratulated Mr. Frank Myers, Rossvie High Principal named TSSAA A.F. Bridges Principal of the Year; Mr. Jeff Jordan, named TSSAA A.F. Bridges Male Coach of the Year; and Northeast High School represented by Mr. Garry Chadwell was named TSSAA A.F. Bridges School of the Year.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Garland and seconded by Mr. Giles, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda 6-0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- October 20, 2015 regular session minutes
- Surplus property, Warehouse Operation obsolete equipment, first reading November 3, 2015
- Surplus property, 38' man lift and 38' articulating lift, first reading November 3, 2015
- Resolution Budget Amendments to 2015-2016 CMCSS budget – first reading November 3, 2015
- 2015 LEA Compliance Report – first reading November 3, 2015
- 2016 Legislative Interests – first reading November 3, 2015

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation - 5 – Financial Administration was reviewed with the Board by Dr. Worthington explaining that with respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the Director of Schools shall not cause nor allow fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation from the annual budget or budget policy adopted by the Board, or any fiscal condition that is inconsistent with achieving the priorities established in the Board's Ends Policies. The motion was made by Mr. Giles to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Ms. Dowdy. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Report

Goal 4 – Refine Response to Instruction and Intervention K-5 and Expand Middle School Implementation. Dr. Worthington explained we are in the second year of implementation in our elementary schools and our first year in middle schools. Dr. Mary Gist and Mrs. Beth Unfried gave an update on the program and current status.

Dr. Gist stated the RTI² process is for general education students. Schools are provided with resources to help identify and offer interventions for students with specific skill deficits or enrichment needs in reading and math. RTI² was a mandated statewide implementation. All statewide elementary schools were required to implement this process last year, middle schools were required to implement the current year, and next year all high schools will be required. Dr. Gist commented the process of implementation has not been without challenges from the onset, but stated the importance of successful execution is critical as the benefits of this program are huge for our students who need the most assistance.

RTI² implementation is categorized in 3 tiers. Tier 1 illustrates approximately 85% of students would be expected to be successful in the general classroom. In a typical school, about 10% (Tier 2) would need some supplementary intervention in addition to general education classroom instruction. The remaining 5% of students would require placement in a Tier 3 intervention which is much more intense. One difference between Tier 2 and Tier 3 would be the group size. Tier 2 would consist of 6 – 8 pupils versus a Tier 3 classroom of 3 – 4 students which means more individual time with that teacher.

One of the key factors of RTI² is a focus on skills instead of standards. For example, the common standard in reading is to be able to read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. Fundamental skills would include phonemic awareness, decoding, and fluency. In math, the common standard is to apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide rational numbers. With intervention classes, a student's skill deficit are identified indicating where they need extra help and then the proper tier level is assigned.

Dr. Gist noted a brief 5 minute assessment called Universal Screener is given to all students at the beginning of the school year. Students scoring in the lowest 25% are detected. Teacher input and other data sources are considered. Specific skill deficits are then pinpointed for each student. Students remain in RTI until sufficient progress data has been collected. Teachers will then meet to determine whether intervention will be continued, if changes in the process are needed, or if the student will exit the program.

Dr. Gist concluded her presentation by discussing next steps which includes continuing to provide training and intervention resources for teachers. Also, we will refine the quality of interventions and documentation as well as communication processes providing any necessary support. Screener data will be used to evaluate

student movement through the tiers. We are preparing for high school implementation in 2016-2017. A question was asked regarding children coming to our district without pre-school and how this affects the RTI program. Mrs. Unfried responded that without pre-school, the process in determining if there is a skill deficit is more challenging and usually a more in-depth evaluation can be made after the first few weeks of school.

Comments

Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer

Tayranette Williams reported on a recent visit by representatives from NASA and Honeywell. These organizations paid for a demonstration to be shared with three districts. The program is called “Forces in Motion” and is an interactive, educational production to tell students about Sir Isaac Newton’s Law of Gravity. The students had a wonderful learning experience. The simulations were tied directly into our STEM world.

Board Members Comments

Mr. Freeman stated the RTI program has been a lifelong dream of his as he shared some of his own academic struggles and commended the staff for its dedication to such a worthwhile program. Mr. Garland commented that he attended the Kenwood Middle School Veteran’s Day program and thanked all of the Kenwood staff for their efforts in putting this program together. Mr. Garland also reported on tnAchieves and noted that 1,676 of our students applied for TN Promises. 239 people are needed as mentors. Montgomery County currently has 186. Mr. Garland encouraged anyone that would like to be part of this program to visit www.tnAchieves.org for additional information. Mr. Giles offered a heartfelt “thank you” to all veterans as well. In addition, Mr. Baggett echoed his thanks to veterans. He also referred to the reward schools recognitions and said the Board looks forward to acknowledging these schools each month. Mr. Baggett stated that the hard work of the faculty and administrators is a strong testament to the schools receiving these awards and they should be applauded for their commitment and efforts.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington referenced the number of Veteran’s Day assemblies across the district and called attention to the posters displayed in our Boardroom as these are remnants of the contests held within the schools. He shared that these events remind us of the many military families in the district and the importance of supporting these students through their transitions and deployment of family members. Dr. Worthington concluded by reminding the Board of the TSBA this upcoming weekend and that our students from Rossvie and Kenwood will be performing.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Baggett adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



Joshua Baggett
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary