

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

January 12, 2016

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 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, Willie Freeman, George Giles, Stephanie Lobdell, and Anne Murtha. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Kathryn Olita, Board Attorney; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academic Officer; and Deb Cummings, Secretary, who documented minutes of the meeting. Members of the County Commission School Liaison Committee present were: Robert Gibbs, Ron Sokol, Arnold Hodges, Charlie Keene, and Wallace Redd.

Point of Pride

Dr. Worthington stated two reward schools, Northeast Elementary and Pisgah Elementary, would be recognized as top 5% schools in the state in both the Achievement and Growth categories. Dr. Mason Bellamy presented the Northeast Elementary reward school certificate to principal Dr. Regina Lyle and assistant principal Catherine Brandt. Dr. Bellamy also presented to Pisgah Elementary principal Ms. Sallie Oden and assistant principal Amy Williams a certificate for their achievement in being named a reward school.

Mr. Shawn Heaston recognized Regions Bank for their work with Clarksville High School's Academy of Business and Finance. Regions Bank City President, Carolyn Pierce, along with its branch managers, facilitated the program called Junior Achievement "JA Be Entrepreneurial" for seven weeks during the months of September-October 2015. For one day each of the seven weeks, Regions Bank representatives worked with the CHS Academy Career Practicum students and teachers Mrs. Mitzi McKay and Ms. Lauren Brown in the processes and steps in starting an entrepreneurial venture.

Mr. Heaston presented awards to two CMCSS students that were semifinalists in the 61st annual program National Merit Scholarship Corp. Billy Reynolds, a senior at the Middle College High School at Austin Peay State University, and Claire Barnett, a senior at Rossvie High School, will advance to the finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several requirements. Additionally, Claire Barnett is the winner in the United States Senate Youth Program for Tennessee. Claire will receive a one-time \$5,000 scholarship and an all-expense paid week in Washington, D.C.

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:

- December 8, 2015 regular session minutes
- 2017 – 2018 School Year Calendar, first reading January 5, 2016

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation – 2 – Communicating with the Public was reviewed with the Board by Dr. Worthington. The policy states the Superintendent/Director of Schools shall assure that the public is adequately informed about the condition and direction of the District. The motion was made by Ms. Murtha to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Ms. Lobdell. Motion passed 6 – 0.

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation – 9 – School Year Calendar was reviewed with the Board by Dr. Worthington. The policy states the Director of Schools shall prepare a District Calendar or School Calendar that best meets the instructional needs of students. Accordingly, the development of the calendar shall provide for multiple years of implementation, make available the required number of instruction and contact hours/days, and include dates for all district scheduled professional learning activities. The motion was made by Mr. Garland to declare full compliance of this report period and seconded by Mr. Giles. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Reports

Goal 2 – Expand existing college and career academies in high school. Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academic Officer, presented the report. Dr. Johnson began by stating the goal of the district is to ensure all students are college and career ready. He reiterated it is vital the curriculum and instruction within an academy meets external standards and college entrance requirements. While differing from a regular high school, the academy focus of learning is centered on student interest in a career theme and one that aligns well with the CMCSS vision. Dr. Johnson mentioned that this is the third year for the college and career academies in the district. He noted that research shows that smaller learning communities have a positive effect on students and provide opportunities for local community involvement. Local business support offers mentoring and networking opportunities, real-world experiences, and classroom support such as one-to-one technology for students. Mr. Shawn Heaston, High School Director, acknowledged each academy and shared key highlights :

- West Creek HS – Criminal Justice & Homeland Security
- Northeast HS – Computer & Game Programming Technology
- Clarksville HS – Business and Finance
- Montgomery Central HS – Plant and Animal Systems
- Northwest HS – Health Science
- Kenwood HS – STEM
- Rossvie HS – Media Arts and Technology

Goal 14 – Increase parent engagement. Ms. Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer, gave an overview of the CMCSS parent engagement initiatives and discussed a variety of elements that make-up our communications effort with parents. Ms. Shelton recalled to the Board the Department of Defense Education Activity grant awarded CMCSS in the fall of 2013 which was a \$4.5M four-year consortium grant with Christian County. As part of the grant, our work here was to create a replicable parent engagement model that can be implemented across the country. Our model consists of a three-pronged approach of support for parents that include parent focus groups, parent ambassadors, and communication and volunteer coordinators. Ms. Shelton commented an online video repository has been created with key information for

parents including online enrollment, PowerSchool, and Engage TV. Ms. Shelton discussed next steps by describing plans to expand our learning opportunities for parents and looking at various avenues to do so. Some ideas consist of providing parents tips to support learning outside of school, highlighting student-based good news stories and events, focusing on ways to support students in the 2016 – 17 calendar, and identifying specific ways to sustain the work of the parent engagement model when the grant ends.

Comments

Board Members Comments

All Board members welcomed the new county commissioners and commended them for taking their time to serve on the school liaison committee.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington joined the Board in welcoming the new commissioners and thanked them for their continued support. In addition, Dr. Worthington congratulated the Adult Education high school for reaching a milestone recently by scoring an amazing 49 on the equivalency test. (They have a quarterly target of 29.) Dr. Worthington added the community is very fortunate to benefit from all the good work this program and its staff provide. Dr. Worthington reminded everyone about the Business After Schools event scheduled for Thursday evening, January 28th, at Northeast High School which will be highlighting the academies.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Baggett adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Joshua Baggett
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary