

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

May 10, 2016

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, May 10, 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, Eula Dowdy, Anne Murtha, and Stephanie Lobdell. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Kathryn Olita, Board Attorney; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academic Officer; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; David Holman, Chief Technology 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

The following recognitions were presented by Mr. Shawn Heaston, High School Level Director:

Three Clarksville-Montgomery County School System high schools had winning students at this year's Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League (THSSDL) state tournament. They include Rossvie's Kevin Kirkman, who is the state champion, winning 1st place in After Dinner Speaking. Also placing in that event was fellow RHS student Pramika Sriram in 3rd. Rossvie had an excellent showing at state with Megan Cole placing 3rd in Prose, Carson Watts placing 4th in Original Oratory, and Alyssa Bolster placing 4th and Megan Joose placing 6th in TV News. In the Student Congress event, Rossvie had five students nominated for outstanding speaker awards. Rossvie's Claire Barnett was the Presiding Officer in the House for Congress. Northeast High School also received awards. In the Duo Interpretation event Gavin Berlyak and CeeJay Byrd placed 4th. Kelsey Thornton, a junior at Kenwood High, also brought home honors by placing 5th in the Original Oratory speech event. Also, two students have qualified for the National Speech Tournament : Claire Barnett, RHS, who will represent Tennessee in the Senate, and CeeJay Byrd who qualified in Dramatic Interp. They both will compete June 12-17 in Salt Lake City at the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament.

Joey Smith, director of the Montgomery County Health Department, approached the Health Science Academy at Northwest High School and the Media Arts Academy at Rossvie High School with an opportunity to improve the health of the citizens of Montgomery County. He asked Health Science Academy students to study the adverse health effects of smoking and secondhand smoke and asked that a resolution supporting the smoke-free community initiative be drafted for presentation to the Montgomery County Commission. The Media Arts Academy was charged with designing media for display. On April 4th, the project culminated in the chambers of the Commission. Seven members of the Health Science Academy presented the Smoke-free Community Initiative resolution and four members of the Media Arts Academy delivered the supporting media package. On April 11th, the Montgomery County Commission passed the resolution with a 19 – 2 vote. NWHS Health Science Academy students who participated include: DeShaun Dail, Craig Barbour, Aubrey Baxter, Gracie Seiber, Chardia Csizmadia, Yarelis Flores-Gonzalez, and Kaitlin Mclaughlin. RHS Media and Graphic Arts Academy students include: Austin Polster, Zoe Williams, Rebecca Stroble, and Leanna Kiser.

Four students from the STEM Academy at Kenwood High School decided to do an independent research project for extra credit in honors chemistry. Using their knowledge of biology and their interest in agriculture, they came up with the idea to determine how chemicals impact the germination and growth rate of bean plant seedlings. They got the idea from two projects they had completed independently while taking biology. Aaron and Jacobie conducted an experiment to determine which type of water helps plants grow best. They concluded that water filtered through sand and carbon helps plants grow best. Sahil and Josh came up with the idea to examine the growth of bean seeds when exposed to chemicals. This year they improved that idea by redoing their experiment using only filtered water. To fund their project, they applied for and were awarded a grant from the Tennessee Junior Academy of Sciences in November 2015. Their project was interrupted a couple times by snow days, but they kept at it until they collected valid data.

They concluded that all chemicals have some impact on seeding germination and growth. They were selected as one of only 25 projects across the state of Tennessee to present at the Tennessee Junior Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting on April 15, 2016. They are hoping to expand on their projects next year as individuals, with the hopes of making a discovery that can be applied to agricultural practices by inspiring the reduction of chemicals used in current farming methods. Congratulations to these budding scientists: Aaron Rice, Jacobie Kindle, Sahil Goklaney, and Joshua Graham.

On June 22, 2015, President Obama signed an expansion of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program to include students with outstanding scholarship and achievement in career and technical education (CTE). Dr. Marina McCarthy, Chair of the Commission of Presidential Scholars and Ms. Simone Olson, Executive Director of the Presidential Scholar Program issued a letter to Chief State School Officers announcing the nomination process for the 2016 U. S. Presidential Scholars that will include five (5) students from each jurisdiction who demonstrate excellence in CTE. Eligible high school seniors are those who are participants in a CTE program, are graduating between January and June of 2016, are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, or are home-schooled. The guiding principles for nominating students in the CTE category include academic rigor, technical competence, employability skills, and ingenuity and creativity. It is hoped that the application pool reflects the diversity of our nation's CTE students and the economic sectors of U.S. economy.

Dr. Candice McQueen, Tennessee Commissioner of Education, submitted only 3 students from the state of Tennessee for consideration of this prestigious award. Jenine Lowe, senior at Montgomery Central High, is the only student from Montgomery County to be presented this great honor and to be named a finalist for the Presidential Scholars Program.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Dr. Worthington called attention to Item 2 (Textbook Adoption Waiver) which references outdated Spanish and Latin textbooks. With regard to Item 3 (Authorized Student Expenditures Reconsideration), Dr. Worthington reminded the Board this will be a one-fee expenditure going forward for elementary and middle students which is an altered practice from the past. On a motion by Mr. Garland and seconded by Mr. Giles, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda 7-0. All items on the Consent Agenda including those mentioned above were:

- April 12, 2016 regular session minutes
- Textbook Adoption Waiver, first reading, 04/26/2016
- Authorized Student Expenditures Reconsideration 2016-2017, first reading, 04/26/2016
- Surplus Property – Vacuum Cleaners, CMCSS Warehouse, first reading, 04/26/2016
- Surplus Property – Poster Printing System, West Creek High, first reading, 04/26/2016
- Surplus Property – Transfer Items to County's Parks and Recreation, first reading, 04/26/2016
- 2016-2017 Student Code of Conduct, first reading, 05/03/2016
- Resolution 2015-2016 Budget Year-End Amendments, first reading, 05/03/2016

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation – 5 – Financial Administration – is presented multiple times during the year. Dr. Worthington noted 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 End Policies. Ms. Murtha made a motion declaring full compliance with EL-5 for this reporting period. Her motion was seconded by Ms. Dowdy and passed unanimously.

Dr. Worthington presented the monitoring report for Executive Limitation – 13 – Career Technical Education Programs – stating that the district reviews local, state, regional, and national job markets each year. An advisory committee meets twice a year. Student may apply to attend CTE programs and academies outside of their school zone. The STEM Academy will begin its seventh year next school year. A career Exploration Day for 8th graders is held each November

highlighting the local academies, CTE clusters, and post-secondary opportunities available to students. Dr. Worthington noted the certification and dual enrollment opportunities available listed in the monitoring report. After asset mapping completion, the local team will revisit and refine the five-year plan based upon the findings. Mr. Giles made a motion declaring full compliance with EL-13 for the current monitoring period. Following a second by Mr. Freeman, the motion carried 7 – 0.

Reports

1. Goal 15 – Align Community Resources with District Work

Ms. Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer, provided a brief staffing overview. Two new team members will be joining the Communications department. Abby Binkley is replacing Candy Johnson (former Education Foundation Executive Director) and Anthony Johnson will be replacing Andrew Pitt (former Communications Director).

Ms. Shelton noted the Partners in Education program (PIE) has been the focus of this year's goal to align community resources with district work through the first year of implementing EasyPartner. EasyPartner was announced in August 2015 and is an online tool to assist schools in matching community partner contributions with identified needs. The primary goals are to get 100% of CMCSS schools to connect with community partners on EasyPartner, to collect accurate data on partner contributions of time and resources, and to monitor how partnerships support academic achievement. Over 16,000 students have been impacted by partner support and 763 volunteer hours have been logged. Monetary donations or in-kind donations have exceeded \$34,000. The Education Foundation has received over \$406,000 from the community with 1,467 volunteer hours served. CTE students have been awarded \$5,900 in scholarships and almost 1,500 teacher warehouse appointments have been made.

Ms. Shelton summarized next steps which include expanding the marketing of partnership options to the community through Chamber communication vehicles, continuing to work one-on-one with schools to assist with EasyPartner registration, and engaging CMC Education Foundation and CMCSS social media to promote simplicity of connecting with schools.

Comments

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington reminded the Board of the Retiree reception on Thursday this week at 3:00 p.m. Graduations will be held on May 26, 27, and 28. Dr. Worthington closed the meeting by introducing the "Teens 4 Teens" video which was shared with the Board.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Baggett adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Joshua Baggett
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary