

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

August 9, 2016

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, August 9, 2016, at the Greenwood Complex, 430 Greenwood Avenue, Clarksville, TN. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Josh Baggett, Chairman; Willie Freeman, George Giles, Jimmie Garland, Stephanie Lobdell, Anne Murtha, and Eula Dowdy. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Katie Olita, General Counsel; Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academic Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources 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

Marla Rye from Workforce Essentials was recognized by Dr. Bryan Johnson. Ms. Rye was commended for working with the district team and for her initiative in writing a proposal to help keep the Adult High School program in the community. As a result of a change in the state funding process, the program would have otherwise closed.

Mr. Marcus Heaston recognized the girls' softball team at Clarksville High School. The team played in the semifinals at the 2016 District 10AAA Championship, Region 5AAA Champions, Sectional Winners, 4th place in AAA State. Overall record: 38-9-1. Team members include: Taylor Woodring, Senior; Caitlin Aten, Junior; Lindsey Eldridge, Junior; McKinleigh Guthrie, Junior; Katie Keen, Junior; McKenzie Rose, Junior; Peyton Wilson, Junior; Hailey Demonbreum, Sophomore; Ashley Ender, Sophomore; Sarah McClellan; Sophomore; Madison McDougald, Sophomore; Macey Milliken, Sophomore; Taylor Adkins, Freshman; Lucy Chilcutt, Freshman; Katie Dunn, Freshman; Sorina Gantt, Freshman; Shelby Gibson, Freshman; Molly Goins, Freshman; Scotti Harrison, Freshman; Morgan Holt, Freshman; Haley Pemberton, Freshman; Madison Rios, Freshman; and, Allyson Weaver, Freshman. Their Coaches are: Head Coach Brian Rush, Asst. Coach Joe Warren and Asst. Coach Madison Thomas.

Mr. Heaston also congratulated Kenwood High School senior Kelsey Thornton as she was elected Governor for Volunteer Girls State at Lipscomb University.

Mr. Marc Walls, Northeast High School science teacher, was recognized by Mr. Heaston as the 2016 Emerging Leader by the National Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Mr. Heaston congratulated the 2016 Bridge Leadership Academy mentors. More than 30 CMCSS students from each of the system's seven high schools participated. There were 16 student mentors who were a combination of hand-picked JROTC cadets and Leadership Academy Graduates from last year's class who have demonstrated strong leadership abilities, and, who exhibit the values of courage, commitment, sacrifice, patriotism, integrity, and citizenship – the qualities and values that make-up the backbone of the Medal of Honor Character Development Program. Student mentors for the Kenwood Leadership Academy were: Ly'Tauchia Pridgen and J'Quoi George. Student mentors for the Montgomery Central Leadership Academy were: Ashleigh Torres, Alexis Wilkerson and Samantha Hefner. Student mentors for the Northeast Leadership Academy were: Wren Campbell, Dru White, Marcus Vega, Brandon Fisher, Scott Moore and Delana Cleckler. Student mentors for the Northwest Leadership Academy were: Nakita Barber and Tommy Avila. Student mentors for the West Creek Leadership Academy were: Kelly Rodriguez, Selena Lombardo and Hailey Kirk.

The CMCSS Communications Department received a Golden Achievement Award from the National School Public Relations Association for its work on the "Own the Difference" campaign with employees and students. Through focused messaging in videos, newsletters, and district communication collaterals, students and staff understand that CMCSS is unique in the way it approaches teaching and learning. From a redesign of the logo in 2012, through "Back to School" meetings over the past three years, the message of being the defining difference for students has been conveyed and reinforced. Ms. Elise Shelton presented this award to the Board of Education.

Public Conversation

Ms. Katie Olita, General Counsel, stated there were two individuals requesting to address the Board. Ms. Olita commented that, in advance of their statements this evening, this Board recognizes the vitality of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving the public to speak at its meetings. The Board will allow individuals to express an opinion prior to Board action on formal agenda items. Ms. Olita commented that while the public conversation occurring this evening is not directly related to a Board action on an agenda item, the CMCSS Board is allowing this public conversation. Ms. Olita also noted that the policy regarding public conversation has not changed. The public request form was revised to clarify that in the future any public participation in these meetings shall be related to a formal agenda item only.

Public conversations to address the Board were made by Mr. James Kirchner and Dr. Arthur Carpenter with regard to middle school social studies, textbook chapter 5, instructional material.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Giles and seconded by Ms. Dowdy, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda 7-0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- July 19, 2016 regular session minutes
- Surplus Property - Technology, first reading 08/02/2016
- 2017 Retiree Insurance Guideline, first reading 08/02/2016

Policy Monitoring

None

Reports

1. Goal 1 – Align Assessment Practices with TNReady Expectations was presented by Dr. Kimmie Sucharski, District Data Analyst, and Accountability. Dr. Sucharski discussed the process in preparing for a new assessment and the importance of TNReady. Skills are developed that are in line with college and work expectations. TNReady allows students to show what they know in new ways, provides better information for teachers and parents, and promotes real-world problem-solving.

Tested subjects in grades 3rd – 8th will be Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science which will be paper pencil to include a variation of testing such as multiple choice, multiple select, equations, writing, and graphing. Tested subjects in high school will be Algebra I, II, Geometry, English I, II, III, US History, Biology, and Chemistry which will again be paper pencil to include much of the same testing criteria as elementary. TCAP TN Ready assessment will be administered April 17 – May 5, 2017 to 3rd – 8th and high school in all subjects. The test is composed to only one test administration. ELA average reduction of testing time is 95 minutes and math average reduction of testing time to 25 minutes. Online assessment will be phased in over three years and the testing format and item types will remain the same.

Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academic Officer, continued the presentation by explaining how the district supports TNReady implementation. The district is providing professional learning opportunities to include frequent meetings with administrators and academic coaches, support from consulting teachers with open labs, and additional support for teachers through PLC's. Benchmarks are utilized to identify students' performance levels toward achieving mastery of the identified state standards and provide data for the development of instructional strategies to assist students' in developing mastery. Common assessments provide regular feedback of what students know and do not know in terms of the current learning targets to guide instructional decisions which are administered at the end of study units. Teachers participate in weekly collaborative planning sessions supported by administrators and academic coaches to create assessments. Principals use professional learning funds for teachers to have extended planning sessions to focus on unit assessments. Resources for parents include the CMCSS website where testing and assessment information is available. Another helpful resource is the TN.gov website which covers areas of

academic standards, graduation requirements, student support, and Report Card along with other useful information.

Dr. Johnson concluded the presentation by outlining plans for next steps in refining assessment practices to align with TNReady implementation. The district will continue to build assessment resources with teachers and create and administer district benchmark assessments to provide teachers feedback on students' progress. Professional learning will be delivered to principals, academic coaches, and teachers focused on the expectation of TNReady. We will continue to provide support to teachers to build content knowledge as well as assessment assistance and communicate state assessment and ESSA updates.

Comments

County Commissioners

Commissioner Sokol inquired about the revision mentioned earlier by General Counsel, Ms. Olita, with regard to public conversation. Ms. Olita explained the previous public request form was simply revised for more clarity by stating only items on the formal agenda would be open to public discussion at formal Board meetings. (There was no policy change.) Chairman Baggett further explained that any topic from the public could be brought before the Board in any Study Session Board meeting. Ms. Olita reiterated all school Board meetings are open to the public and meeting minutes are recorded.

Board Members

Ms. Lodbell recognized Ms. Margaret Pace as the new Board member representing District 2 replacing her. Ms. Lodbell thanked the Board for the collaboration over the past four years and expressed her pride in CMCSS. Ms. Dowdy recognized Mr. Charlie Patterson for his election to the Board representing District 6. Mr. Giles and Mr. Garland congratulated both Ms. Pace and Mr. Patterson and welcomed them to the Board. Mr. Garland thanked Dr. Johnson and Dr. Sucharski for their informative presentation on the assessment practices to align with TNReady expectations. Mr. Baggett congratulated the new Board members and thanked Ms. Lodbell and Ms. Dowdy for their years of service to the community and to the Board.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington congratulated and welcomed the new Board members and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Lodbell and Ms. Dowdy for their service. Ms. Dowdy is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service on the CMCSS Board. With regard to student enrollment, Dr. Worthington stated there were 474 more students on this first day over last year's first day. He commented the numbers remain very fluid as students are still registering. Dr. Worthington gave a brief update on the electrical fire at the Central Office this afternoon. He stated because of the many ancillary support systems the Central Office provides the district, a decision would have to be made regarding opening schools the next day. The staff would be meeting later in the evening to determine options and examine the full impact this unfortunate event has presented the district.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Baggett adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.



Joshua Baggett
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary