

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

October 18, 2016

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, October 18, 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: Anne Murtha, Chairman; George Giles, Jimmie Garland, Josh Baggett, Margaret Pace, and Charlie Patterson. Also present were: Dr. B. J. Worthington, Director of Schools; Katie Olita, General Counsel; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; James Sumrell, Chief Operations 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, Ron Sokol, Arnold Hodges, Wallace Redd, and Charlie Keene.

Point of Pride

Dr. Mary Gist recognized Whitney Joyner, Northeast Middle School, for receiving the ***Understanding Sacrifice Award***. Ms. Joyner is one of only 18 middle and high school educators selected to participate in this partnership between National History Day[®], the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). There were 161 applications for 18 spots in the program. The teachers in the program will attend a workshop next month in Arlington, VA to study World War II in the Pacific. In July 2017, the team will travel to San Francisco, Honolulu, and Manila and develop lesson materials for the ABMCEducation.org website. This phase of materials will be revealed in November 2017 at the National Council for the Social Studies conference in San Francisco, CA.

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:

- September 20, 2016 regular session minutes
- Surplus Property – Warehouse, first reading 09/27/2016
- CMCSS Depository Authorizations (3), first reading 09/27/2016

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 4 – Financial Planning/Budgeting was read by Dr. Worthington. 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. The annual financial planning process is driven by budget priorities established by the Director of Schools and the Senior Leadership Team that align with the Board's End Policies and the district's strategic plan. The motion was made by Mr. Baggett to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Mr. Patterson. Motion passed 6 – 0.

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 10 – Learning Environment and Student Discipline/Safety was read by Dr. Worthington. The Director of Schools shall provide a safe learning environment conducive to effective learning. A written code of conduct is developed, published, and annually distributed to all students and parents. The motion was made by Mr. Patterson to declare full compliance for this reporting period and seconded by Mr. Giles. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Reports

Goal 3 – Refine TN State Standards Implementation in English/Language Arts and Math was presented by Ms. Emily Vaughn, Curriculum and Instruction Director. Ms. Vaughn gave an update on the current status of the TN State implementation and what the next steps will be moving forward into next year.

Our CMCSS vision is that all students will be college and/or career ready. We have been working on this transition for a period of time and the transition is dependent upon 3 areas: academic progress across the state, the changing world that we live in, and the opportunity of TN Promise. In looking at the overall transition, this will be our third set of standards in eight years which is a lot of change for our teachers in that they must become familiar with one set of standards and then refocus changing to a different set. Each time the standards become more rigorous.

In 2013-2014, we implemented grades K-2 100% Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which means in grades 3 – 11 we were focused on the TN Diploma project (TDP) standards and at the same time looking at where the CCSS fit in. During this time, teachers were balancing two different sets of standards but being tested on one set, TDP.

In 2014 – 2015 when we implemented CCSS across the board grades K – 12, teachers continued to use TDP standards placing those in our curriculum guide as appropriate all the while being tested on TDP standards.

Finally, last year in 2015-2016, we had one set of standards and one accountability measure (TN State Standards) meaning tests did align to those standards and our teachers had the opportunity of having that alignment for the first time. 2017 is our second year of stabilization which is very important because we can now refine our practices. Teachers understand those standards and know what to expect in terms of what the assessment is going to look like. It is very difficult work for them to ensure that they are meeting the expectations of those standards in both their instruction and assessment.

In spring 2016, we looked at revision and collected feedback from our teachers on the 2015-2016 curriculum guides with regard to what's working and what's not. The feedback collected models our summer training which includes providing clear targets and scaffolding expectations for teachers, collaborative lesson development, and administrator guide review sessions. In August 2016, the assessment blueprints were released by TDOE after vendor selection and the curriculum guides were adjusted as needed.

With the transition in standards, there are instructional shifts and teachers may have to approach instruction differently. There are shifts in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. With ELA shifts, the focus is on building student knowledge in all areas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will use evidence-based information to defend claims and support ideas and use high quality, complex text to prepare for college and career. As it relates to Math, the shifts are much more conceptual in understanding and how to use that understanding correctly when problem solving. Students must understand numbers and what they represent, know math facts, apply math skills appropriately, and connect math learning from one year to the next. Standards are revisited throughout the year to ensure progression of learning. Collaborative teams of teachers determine pacing and alignment and clear targets are listed to help teachers understand standard progression. Clear targets define what a student will know and be able to do at the end of the lesson and are written so students can understand the expectations. Teacher resources are available through Curriculum Navigator and through collaborative lesson development. Parent resources include Curriculum Navigator, EngageTV, CMCSS website, newsletters, and school communications.

Ms. Vaughn concluded her presentation by outlining intended next steps. Clear targets will be added to the parent view of the curriculum and parent communication, clear target implementation will be refined, and the focus will be on preparing for the 2017-2018 minimal shifts in standards by participating in state training and collecting feedback on curriculum guides spring 2017.

Board Discussion & Consideration

Student (L.M.) Disciplinary Appeal – Board Attorney Katie Olita referenced the agenda item of the student disciplinary appeal pursuant to TCA Section 49-6-3401 and the CMCSS code of conduct. Prior to the Board meeting, each Board member was provided with a copy of the record and what is contained in the record is set by the statute. A copy of the transcript was also provided of the proceedings which included the facts, the determination, and items supporting that determination. Ms. Olita continued by stating based on the review of the record, Board members may do one of two things. The Board may grant or deny the request for a hearing. If the vote is to have a hearing, it will be held in a closed session and not in a public forum unless the parent elects otherwise which will be set at a separate time. If the vote is to deny the request for the hearing, no hearing will be held. Or, in the alternative, Ms. Olita instructed the Board it may vote to affirm or overturn the decision of the hearing authority. The Board may also modify the decision but may not impose a more severe penalty without holding a hearing. Ms. Olita recapped the options which were to grant or deny the request for a hearing or to take action pursuant to the statute. Mr. Baggett made a motion that the Board affirms the decision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patterson. Mr. Baggett and Mr. Patterson voted in favor of the affirmation, Mr. Garland and Mr. Giles opposed the motion, and Ms. Pace and Ms. Murtha abstained therefore the motion did not carry. Ms. Olita stated she would entertain any other action at this time. Mr. Giles made a motion to modify the discipline ruling to time served. Mr. Giles, Ms. Murtha, Mr. Garland, and Ms. Pace voted in favor of the motion to modify and Mr. Baggett and Mr. Patterson opposed the motion. The final vote of the Board was to modify the disciplinary action to time served.

Comments

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Worthington referenced two hand-outs that were provided to the Board. First, the Kiwanis Reading Rodeo was held on October 27 at Byrns Darden, Norman Smith, and Burt elementary schools. Every 3rd grade students in the school system will receive a copy of a particular book which will be integrated into the curriculum in a district-wide read. The second hand-out was information on a student initiated Smoke-free Community Sign Unveiling. Academies at Northwest and Rossvie High Schools worked on this project together and presented it to the County Commission and City Council. Approval was granted and an unveiling took place at the Public Library on October 25. Dr. Worthington commended our students for taking the initiative to create this idea and for exploring ways to positively impact and contribute to our community. He commented the process required in order to make something like this happen was an invaluable experience for the students and we are very proud of all of them.

A video of the robotics rodeo at the middle school was shared with the Board. Again, Ms. Whitney Joiner played a big role in that event.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Chairman Murtha adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.



Anne Murtha
Board Chair



B. J. Worthington
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary