

Minutes
Clarksville-Montgomery County
Board of Education

January 23, 2018

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in the Board Room central administration offices, 621 Gracey Avenue, Clarksville, TN. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were: Chair Charlie Patterson, Jimmie Garland, Josh Baggett, Margaret Pace, Anne Murtha, George Giles and Willie Freeman. Also present were: Mr. Millard House, Director of Schools; Katie Olita, General Counsel; James Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer; and Deb Cummings, Secretary, who documented minutes of the meeting. Members of the County Commission School Liaison Committee present were: Charlie Keene, Wallace Redd, John Genis, David Harper, and Jerry Allbert.

Point of Pride Awards

Dr. Jean Luna congratulated the student nominees for the National U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The nominees were: Hunter Silverstrim, Northwest High; Navarone Dupont, Northeast High; and Marzel Norris and Aubrey Doll, Kenwood High. Students will be notified in April if they become semi-finalists and their applications have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. The winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2018. Those in attendance to support these students were principals, Dr. Theresa Muckleroy and Mr. Marcus Heaston and AP, Ms. Mandy Frost.

There were 9 Reward schools recognized and featured in a video narrated by Mr. House, Director of Schools. A personalized banner was presented to each school principal by Board member Mr. Willie Freeman. The Reward schools are:

- Middle College at APSU (Melissa Champion-Emerson) top 5% in the state of TN for performance
- Northwest High (Dr. Muckleroy) top 5% in progress
- New Providence Middle (Scott Wainwright) top 5% in progress and growth
- Barksdale (Melinda Harris and Karen Hoskins) recognized for progress
- Byrns Darden (Jessica Harris and Nabraunda Jackson) recognized for progress
- East Montgomery (Janet Staggs and Bonnie Digby) achievement and growth
- Glenellen (Patti Koloski and Jami Skevington) rewarded in progress
- Hazelwood (Cynthia Kerr and Molly Willis) rewarded in achievement
- Liberty (Sherry Baker and Melissa Johnson) recognized for growth

Mr. Jim Sumrell commended Ms. Brittani Sigears, CMCSS bus driver, for her heroic efforts during an emergency fire evacuation on Bus 1104 on November 2, 2017 at 6:40 a.m. Mr. Sumrell praised Brittani's quick thinking and prior training which resulted in all students exiting the bus orderly and safely. Bus 1104 was totally destroyed.

Dr. Jean Luna recognized Marzel Norris for being selected as the 2017 Tennessee Titans Radio Student Broadcaster of the Year. Marzel won the contest by submitting an example of play by play announcing as well as a recommendation from his teacher, Ms. Mandy Kelly. Marzel was given four tickets to the Titans vs Jaguars game and he was presented with a plaque during a live Titans radio pre-game show in addition to club level seats.

Public Conversation

Ms. Katie Olita announced there were 3 individuals requesting to speak this evening regarding an item on the Board agenda, dismissal charges against a tenured teacher. Ms. Olita instructed each speaker they would have a time limit of 5 minutes to speak. The speakers included Marjorie Barbee, Melinda Kelly-Major, and Dr. LoriAnne Williams all speaking on behalf of and in support of teacher, Jeffrey Major.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Baggett and seconded by Mr. Garland, the Board approved the Consent Agenda 7-0. Items on the Consent Agenda were:

- December 12, 2017 regular session minutes
- January 11, 2018 special session minutes
- School Calendar 3rd Year Out (2019-2020), first reading 01/09/2018
- Land Exchange – Kenwood High, first reading 01/09/2018
- Surplus Property – County Parks and Recreation, first reading 01/09/2018

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 2 – Communicating with the Public was interpreted by Mr. House. The Director of Schools shall assure that the public is adequately informed about the condition and direction of the District. The motion was made by Mr. Baggett to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-2 and seconded by Mr. Giles. Motion passed 7 – 0.

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 9 – School Year Calendar was interpreted by Mr. House. The Director of Schools shall prepare a District Calendar or School Calendar that best meets the instructional needs of students. The motion was made by Mr. Giles to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-9 and seconded by Mr. Freeman. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Reports

Report of Executive Order dated January 16, 2018 was presented to the Board with regard to the additions to four (4) existing school buildings: Northeast Middle, Northeast High, Barkers Mill, and Minglewood. The School Board Chair authorized this action on January 16 in the form of an Executive Order in light of insufficient time to call a Board meeting and specifically so that these Resolutions may be presented to the County Commission in the most timely manner. A motion was made by Mr. Giles and seconded by Mr. Baggett. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Goal # 8 – Align assessment practices with TNReady was presented by Dr. Kimmie Sucharski, District Data Analyst. Dr. Sucharski stated the State of TN shifted assessment expectations for ELA and Math beginning with the 2015-2016 school year transitioning from the old TCAP achievement tests to the TNReady for grades 3 – high school. Students were expected to complete TNReady online via computer; however, due to logistical and technology issues, TN was only able to administer TNReady EOC assessments in high schools. Grades 3 – 8 did not participate. For the 2016-2017 school year, the state delayed online testing once again and students completed paper pencil. 2017-2018 will be high school TNReady EOC. 2018-2019 will be 5th – high school TNReady with 3rd and 4th paper/pencil optional. Beyond 2018-2019, 5th – high school online with 3rd and 4th remaining paper/pencil optional.

Dr. Sucharski continued by saying CMCSS ensured that district curriculum guides were aligned with state blueprints. Teachers were provided with assessment items that aligned to the TN State Standards. Training focused on deconstructing standards, aligning teaching practices, and creating appropriate assessments. Common assessments have been developed and administered. Curriculum consulting teachers will continue to provide support and academic coaches will provide teachers with real time support in the classroom.

Dr. Sucharski said we will continue to build resources with teachers and administer district benchmarks to ensure students progress towards mastery. In addition, state assessment and ESSA updates will be communicated in a timely manner.

Board Discussion

Dismissal Charges Against Tenured Teacher

Mr. House stated he would be reading the charges against tenured teacher, Mr. Jeffrey Major and commented any one of these charges made against Mr. Major, if founded, calls for dismissal pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated 49-5-511.

Board counsel, Ms. Olita, explained the matter before them pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 49-5-511 of which statute sets out the procedure by which a Board may consider the termination of a tenured teacher. Ms. Olita stated it is the recommendation pursuant to these written charges signed by Mr. House that Mr. Major's action as set forth herein constitute conduct unbecoming to a member of a teaching profession and insubordination as defined by law. Ms. Olita continued by stating it is the recommendation that these charges, if founded, would be the basis for dismissal of this tenured teacher. The Board was instructed by Ms. Olita that under the statute the Board would decide whether the charges are of such a nature as to warrant the dismissal of the teacher for conduct unbecoming, unprofessional conduct, and insubordination.

Chairman Patterson asked for a motion that the Board take action on this recommendation. A motion was made for approval by Mr. Giles and seconded by Mr. Garland. Chairman Patterson asked for a vote which resulted in 5 votes for approval with Mr. Baggett and Chairman Patterson abstaining.

Comments

County Commissioners

Commissioner Genis commented that he looked forward to supporting the upcoming proposed resolutions for the classroom additions and also to working with the two new school liaison members, Commissioners Jerry Allbert and David Harper.

Board Members

Mr. Freeman thanked the Board, district, and community for all the support and prayers in the recent tragic loss of two of their church members and also the passing of his sister.

Mr. Garland commended the district on making some tough decisions over the past week and commented he felt these decisions were made for the right reasons which was for the enhanced education of our students. Mr. Garland thanked the County Commissioners, Mr. House and his staff, principals, teachers and their staffs for the dedication and leadership to ensure our kids are career ready upon high school graduation. He commented that every district across the state is not as fortunate as CMCSS in that regard and how proud he is to be a part of all the great things that are happening in Montgomery County schools.

Director of Schools Report

Mr. House asked for prayers for the community of Marshall County, Benton, KY, in the aftermath of a high school shooting there today.

Mr. House thanked Mr. Jim Sumrell and the Operations staff as well as the Senior Leadership team during the recent inclement weather situation in making very difficult decisions to ensure the focus was on keeping our district as safe as possible.

Mr. House commented that this month will be the kick off of the ***The Rise Report*** tour which will include findings during his first 100 days. He will be presenting to the County Commission, City Council, several churches, and civic groups to share the finalized report over the next several months and to ensure the community understands the direction the district is headed.

Mr. House mentioned that in cooperation with the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce, the Citizens of Ft. Campbell has extended to him an invitation to participate in a trip to Washington, DC to speak on behalf of the importance Ft. Campbell is to the city of Clarksville. Mr. House will be joining the group in speaking with legislators in D.C. regarding Ft. Campbell and the collaborative partnership we share with them. The trip is planned for February 27 – 28.

In closing, Mr. House commented on the recognition of School Board Week during January 21 – 27. He offered his sincere appreciation to the Board on behalf of the entire district for the many hours they spend each month volunteering and leading in the community, for making difficult decisions, and for safeguarding each one of our 34,887 students.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Board Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.



Charlie Patterson
Board Chair



Millard L. House, II
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary