

Minutes
Clarksville-Montgomery County
Board of Education

February 12, 2019

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in the Boardroom central administration offices, 621 Gracey Avenue, Clarksville, TN. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were: Chair Margaret Pace, Anne Murtha, Josh Baggett, Carol Berry, Charlie Patterson and Jimmie Garland. Also present were: Mr. Millard House, Director of Schools; Mark Nolan, General Counsel; Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer; Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer; Jim Sumrell,; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Angela Huff, Chief of Staff; and Deb Cummings, Secretary, who documented minutes of the meeting. Members present of the County Commission School Liaison Committee were Charlie Keene, David Harper, Jerry Allbert, Loretta Bryant, and Carmelle Chandler.

Point of Pride Awards

Dr. Mary Gist congratulated CMCSS's elementary and middle school Robotics Teams. Those competing included: Richview Middle School coached by Anne Stritzel and Christina Ploeckelman; Rossvie Middle School coached by David Kennedy; Northeast Middle School coached by Whitney Joyner; and, Moore Magnet Elementary School coached by Michelle O'Bryant and Will Bowers.

Awards were in the following categories:

- **Programming**

Moorebots (MMES)—1st Place in Programming

Hawkbotics Red (ROMS)- 2nd Place in Programming

- **Research Project**

Cowboy Robotics (RIMS)- 2nd Place in Research Project

- **Teamwork**

Richview Robotics (RIMS)- 2nd Place in Teamwork

- **Overall Champions**

E3 Strike (NEMS)- 1st Place Overall Champions

E3 Spark (NEMS)- 2nd Place Overall Champions

Hawkbotics Gold (ROMS)- 3rd Place Overall Champions

The Tennessee Department of Education has selected the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System as one of six districts to be named as an Exemplary ACCESS District. ACCESS is the acronym for All Children are Challenged and Equipped for Success in School. CMCSS was recognized for its intensive work and exceptional dedication to providing ACCESS for all students to high quality instruction and intervention over the past two years through the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). These efforts are helping to ensure that all children are challenged and equipped for success in school. Dr. Sean Impeartrice presented awards to district SPDG supervisor Rebecca Britt and SPDG facilitators Elaine Hoffert and Debbie Jones for their dedication in seeking opportunities for schools to participate in these trainings and continue to build upon the success of the grant and create positive, motivating, empowering learning environments throughout the district.

Dr. Jean Luna presented a special Point of Pride recognition to those who collaborated to create the African American Legacy Trail brochure. From the community, **Terry Morris** and **Shanna Thornton**, collected and wrote the information on the historical significance. They then collaborated with the Rossvie High Academy of Media and Art Technology, specifically teacher **Hannah Brooks** and student **Kathryn Boyer**, who designed the piece. Other community groups are supporting the brochure's printing and distribution locally.

Additionally, three out of our five student submissions from the Academy of Media and Art Technology were awarded recognition in the Digital Art category of the 2019 Scholastic Arts & Writing Competition, Southeast Region-at-Large.

Honorable Mention was given to **Sandra Lee** for the piece *2+2=5*.

Gold Key Recognition was given to **Hayley Collins** for the piece *fancy meeting you here*.

Gold Key Recognition was also given to **Kayla Gore** for the piece *The Watcher*.

The two students with Gold Key recognition also have a chance to be recognized with a national medal in New York City in the spring and will be given the opportunity to apply for admission to selective summer art programs around the country.

Public Conversation

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. Baggett, the Board approved the Consent Agenda 6-0. Consent Agenda consisted of :

- January 15, 2019 regular session minutes
- Surplus Property – Technology, 1st Read, February 5, 2019
- Surplus Property – Child Nutrition, 1st Read, February 5, 2019
- Rossvie Elementary – Twelve Classroom Addition (Architect Design Fees), 1st Read, February 5, 2019

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 3 – Personnel Administration was interpreted by Mr. House. The Director of Schools shall assure the recruitment, employment, development, evaluation, and compensation of district employees, consultants, and contract workers in a manner necessary to enable the organization to achieve its Ends policies, and not jeopardize the fiscal integrity or the public image of the District. A motion was made by Mr. Garland to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-3 and was seconded by Ms. Berry. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Reports

Goals #14 – Implement acceptance of debit and credit card payment options was presented by Mr. Danny Grant, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Grant first reported on the district level in 2017. There were 5,800 manual payments for the Technology Protection Plan. In July 2018, of a possible 8,100 one-to-one laptops issued for high school and 8th graders, 4,800 on-line payments (approximately 60%) were made for the Technology Protection Plan. Mr. Grant commented on-line payments greatly increase efficiency by reducing the amount of time needed to process payments received. Currently, the only payments accepted in the district accounting office by debit/credit are student debts, middle college tuition, out-of-county tuition, employee charges for damages or school system items not returned, and third-party facility use charges. Mr. Grant said the next steps will be to explore other opportunities for on-line payments at the district level.

At the school level, Mr. Grant reported that in July 2018, the Business Affairs staff introduced on-line student payments (OSP) and conducted training to all bookkeepers. All schools were encouraged to have at least lost textbooks and library books set up as available options to pay on-line for student debt. As of January 2019, all 39 schools have the capability to do this and 32 of schools have used the voluntary program in some capacity to accept payments on-line. Feedback on OSP from parents and bookkeepers has been positive. Business Affairs will be working with all schools to help them overcome any possible obstacles in processing on-line payments.

Comments

Board Members

Mr. Patterson introduced County Commissioner Walker Woodruff, District 13, and thanked him for attending the Board meeting this evening.

Board member Anne Murtha commented she was disappointed that erroneous information was presented at the commission meeting on Monday night when the campus plan was rejected. Ms. Murtha said that going forward she sincerely hoped that the commission will see that we are on their side and want to support the commission, and that we are simply trying to teach the students that have come into our district after the growth that has been encouraged by our local legislators.

Board member Josh Baggett publicly thanked schools Director Millard House and Chief Operations Officer Jim Sumrell for their efforts to move the Kirkwood campus forward and the quality of information they provided. Mr. Baggett expressed his disappointment for our students especially knowing even more students will now be housed in mobile classrooms moving forward. Mr. Baggett said he felt like it is a detriment to their education and definitely to their safety by choosing this option.

Director of Schools Report

Mr. House expressed his concern as well regarding the County Commission's rejection vote on Monday evening. Mr. House responded he felt obliged to respond to several eye-opening statements made about the Kirkwood campus proposal.

1. Nearby landfill: Kirkwood opponents insinuated that the construction landfill could present dangers to the students. The assertion that the CMCSS operations team would intentionally put children in harm's way is incorrect.
2. TVA high-voltage lines: There are other system schools that are in proximity to TVA lines and there are no issues. The biggest of these is at Northeast, where a TVA transmission line runs between the middle and high schools, officials said. All schools are within the safe zone for those lines.
3. Soft soil: The LG Electronics plant was built on "essentially identical soil."
4. Whether CMCSS made bad decisions: The Joint Land Acquisition Committee is a team made up of County Commissioners, School Board members and the County Mayor. The decisions on land are made by that team, not by the School Board or school system.
5. Whether CMCSS tried to rush the commission: Conversations about Kirkwood have been ongoing for more than three years, House said. Leaf-Chronicle archives indicate presentations to the commission involving Kirkwood campus plans date back to at least 2011. The property was purchased for a school in 2007.
6. Overcrowding at Rossvie and Northeast: House called the assertion that CMCSS intentionally overcrowded those schools "grossly inaccurate." House said CMCSS has in fact held off on spot zoning in those areas in anticipation of the major rezoning the middle school will require.
7. Eagles Bluff rezoning questioned: That has been explained to the commission, and it had negligible impact on the schools.
8. Webb Road as a main artery for bus traffic: Two thirds of the bus traffic would be on a much-improved Highway 79, which would have included three lanes with turn lanes.
9. Campus would see 80 buses a day: That's incorrect; Rossvie is the largest campus in the system and it has only 45 buses.

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Mr. House continued by saying the inaccurate information may have affected the 14-7 vote, and he's bothered that he wasn't given the opportunity Monday night to respond. He commented he believed many of the gross inaccuracies may have unfortunately influenced many of the commissioners in their vote. Rather than engage in a tit-for-tat with the commission, he said he's ready to put Kirkwood in the past and we move on in a positive manner. Mr. House commented he is looking forward to the future and the great things that will happen in our new school wherever that property may land and to doing that in conjunction with the county.

Mr. House informed the Board of the opportunity he had along with Dr. Impeartrice and Dr. Luna to attend the State Collaborative for Reforming Education (SCORE) State of Education address. The new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Schwinn spoke to the audience. Mr. House served on a panel along with the Lt. Governor of TN as well as a teacher from Hamilton County primarily focusing on industry and how we look at the design of schools.

In closing, Mr. House commented on the visit from Commissioner Schwinn last week to NWHS which happened to be her third day on the job. Mr. House said the interest shown by Dr. Schwinn truly attests to the affirmation of the good work being done at CMCSS.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Board Chair Margaret Pace adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.



Margaret Pace
Board Chair



Millard L. House II
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary