

Minutes
Clarksville-Montgomery County
Board of Education

July 9, 2019

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, July 9, 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: Board Chair Margaret Pace, Anne Murtha, Josh Baggett, Carol Berry, Herb Nelson, and Jimmie Garland. Also present were: Mr. Millard House, Director of Schools; Mark Nolan, General Counsel; Marcia Demorest, Chief Financial Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; and Deb Cummings, Secretary, who documented minutes of the meeting. Members present of the County Commission School Liaison Committee were Charlie Keene, Jerry Allbert, Loretta Bryant, David Harper, and Carmelle Chandler.

Annual Evaluation – Director of Schools

Mr. Nolan advised the Board of the Director's annual evaluation as required by state law and referred to the information packet provided to them last week containing all necessary documentation for their review. Mr. Nolan stated that at each Formal meeting throughout the year, Board members review the Director's performance by way of Executive Limitations. Mr. Nolan concluded by stating this is a summation which must be approved in a final format. A motion was made by Mr. Baggett to affirm the evaluation and seconded by Ms. Pace. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Consideration of Contract – Director of Schools

Mr. Nolan reported to the Board that pursuant to Mr. House's contract and the State Board Linkage Policy #3, the School Board is required by law to consider the review of the Director's contract. Mr. Nolan referred the Board to the packet of information previously provided them for consideration in renewing the Director's contract for an additional year. This would extend the term through June 30, 2023. The current contract is valid through June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Murtha and seconded by Ms. Berry to extend the Director's contract by one additional year through June 30, 2023. The motion passed 6 – 0.

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 Ms. Murtha, the Board approved the Consent Agenda 6 - 0. Consent Agenda consisted of:

- June 11, 2019 regular session minutes
- June 18, 2019 special session minutes
- Surplus Property – Technology – Miscellaneous, 1st Read, June 25, 2019
- Surplus Property – Vehicle Property – Bus 98-49, 1st Read, June 25, 2019
- Surplus Property – Custodial Equipment, 1st Read, July 2, 2019
- 2019-2020 Inclement Weather Make Up Plan, 1st Read, July 2, 2019

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 6 – Asset Protection was interpreted by Mr. House. The Director of Schools shall not allow assets of the District to be inadequately maintained, inappropriately used, or unnecessarily risked recognizing budgetary limitations. A motion was made by Mr. Baggett to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-6 and was seconded by Ms. Berry. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Policy Monitoring (continued)

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 7 – Emergency Director of Schools Succession was interpreted by Mr. House. In order to protect the Board from sudden loss of Director of Schools services, the Director may have no fewer than two other executives familiar with Board and Superintendent/Director of Schools responsibilities and processes. Mr. House named Jeanine Johnson, Dr. Impeartrice, and Dr. Huff as possible successors. A motion was made by Ms. Murtha to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-7 and was seconded by Mr. Garland. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Reports

Goal 1– Provide resources and supports to meet students’ social and emotional needs was presented by Dr. Mary Gist, Middle Schools Level Director. Dr. Gist explained that social emotional learning helps students to acquire and apply the skills and attitudes necessary to understand and manage emotions. It also assists the students set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, make responsible decisions, and establish and maintain positive relationships. Twelve additional counseling positions were added in 2018-2019 allowing school counselors to focus on more small group sessions for students. An urgent referral system was developed to facilitate efficient student referrals by teachers which resulted in 20,154 referrals in 2018-2019. National suicide and crisis hotline information for students was posted in all middle and high schools. Programs introduced to assist students include Inner Explorer, Go Zen, and Medal of Honor classes.

Social emotional conferences, stronger relationships with community agencies (TN Suicide Prevention Network, Public Health Department, Community Health Foundation), and introduction to restorative practices have been made available to teachers, counselors, and administrators to maximize efforts.

Dr. Gist summarized her presentation by noting next steps will be to include action plans based on 2019 SEL student survey data and to implement both a student self-referral system and poverty simulation training district-wide. In addition, the district will focus on increasing awareness among parents of community resources for crisis and suicide prevention, train suicide prevention teams at each school, and expand services offered by Mental Health Cooperative.

Board Discussion & Consideration

Student Disciplinary Appeal

Mark Nolan, General Counsel, stated to the Board that prior to this evening they had each received a packet of information regarding the student disciplinary appeal request. Mr. Nolan advised the Board they may grant or deny a request for a Board hearing. The Board may also affirm or overturn the decision of the Director with or without a hearing provided that the Board may not impose a more severe penalty than that previously imposed without first providing an opportunity for a hearing before the Board. Mr. Nolan continued by saying that when the matter is presented to the Board for determination, if no motion is made to grant a hearing, to affirm or overturn the decision of the Hearing Authority, or to modify the discipline imposed, the decision of the Director shall be affirmed.

There was no motion made by the Board, therefore, the decision of the Director was upheld.

Comments

Ft. Campbell Liaison

Dr. Terri McQuirter reported there will be a restructure of the Ft. Campbell Liaison team and that an announcement will be forthcoming. She commented how much she has enjoyed working with CMCSS over the years, however, she will be taking a break from this committee.

County Commissioners

Mr. Harper referenced the social and emotional presentation and asked how many total students made up the 20,154 referrals and what percentage was related to bullying? Mr. House asked Mr. Harper if he would mind detailing his inquiry in an email and forward to him as further research would need to be done to answer his questions.

Board Members

Mr. Garland welcomed Mr. Nelson to his first Formal Board meeting. He also commented on the social emotional presentation and thanked the Instruction team for their efforts and commitment to our students and administrators.

Director's Comments

Mr. House thanked the Board for their confidence and support in him to lead CMCSS and he stated he is very fortunate to work with such a strong district and effective staff.

Mr. House continued by noting preliminary testing data is being received and that he is looking forward to sharing the complete picture once all the numbers have been finalized.

Regarding the 2019-2020 budget, Mr. House informed the Board there is a County round table discussion planned for July 10 and hopefully the final budget approval by the Commission would be July 15.

Mr. House referenced summer is hiring season and complimented the HR department for their great efforts and focus during the process to build our teacher capacity. 209 teachers have been hired to begin the 2019-2020 school year which is indicative of growth in our community.

In conversation with Mayor Durrett regarding land acquisition, Mr. House shared the Kirkwood complex was discussed. An agreement was made that Kirkwood would come back to the table of the joint land acquisition committee for further discussions.

In closing, Mr. House reminded the Board of the upcoming Scarlett Foundation tour and their interest in finding out more about CMCSS. The plan is to show firsthand the district capacity by introducing them to our Engage work, Kenwood specialty programs, and pipeline work. Details of the visit will be shared at a later date.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Board Chair Margaret Pace adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.



Margaret Pace
Board Chair



Millard L. House II
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings
Board Secretary