

Minutes
Clarksville-Montgomery County
Board of Education

January 14, 2020

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, January 14, 2020 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, Herb Nelson, Charlie Patterson, and Jimmie Garland. Also present were: Millard House, Director of Schools; Mark Nolan, General Counsel; Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer; Jeanine Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Elise Shelton, Chief Communications Officer; Marcia Demorest, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Angela Huff, Chief of Staff; Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer; Carol Joiner, General Counsel; and Deb Cummings, Secretary, who documented minutes of the meeting. Members present of the County Commission School Liaison Committee: Loretta Bryant, Carmelle Chandler, Garland Johnson, Josh Beal, and Rickey Ray.

Point of Pride Awards

The Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association inducted Clarksville High Baseball coach Brian Hetland into the 2019 TBCA Hall of Fame. The award was presented to Coach Hetland by Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer.

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. Patterson, the Board approved the Consent Agenda 7 - 0. Consent Agenda consisted of:

- December 10, 2019 regular session minutes
- 2021 – 2022 School Calendar (3rd Year Out), 1st Read, 1/7/2020
- Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission – Plat Approval North Ridge Landing, 1st Read, 1/7/2020
- 2020 - 2021 Staff Zoning Recommendations, 1st Read, 12/03/2019

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for Executive Limitation 2 – Communication 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 Director of Schools will provide for timely information, appropriate input, and strategic two-way dialogue between the district and the citizens that builds understanding and support for district efforts. A motion was made by Ms. Murtha to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-2 and was seconded by Mr. Baggett. 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. A motion was made by Mr. Patterson to declare full compliance for this report period of EL-9 and was seconded by Mr. Nelson. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Report

Executive Order – Request to overspend 3 accounts pending FY 19-20 – GP Fund Budget

Mr. House stated the General Liability Insurance account with an original budget of \$254,723 currently has a remaining available budget of \$69,784.50. The insurance entered in the budget is always an estimate and is adjusted upon actual insurance information. The final installment of \$148,825.50 for our General Liability Insurance has been invoiced and payment of this invoice will exceed the available balance of \$79,041. The fund balance with this adjustment will still remain in excess of the 3% threshold.

By Executive Order, the School Board Chair was asked to authorize the payment in the General Liability Insurance account and the encumbrance in the Special Education Other Contracted Services account and Special Education Support Other Contracted Services account and that said amounts be approved for inclusion in the next FY 2019-2020 amendments for the General Purpose School Fund Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. Garland. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Goal # 12 – Improve student transportation services was presented by Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer. Mr. Sumrell discussed the CMCSS school bus fleet explaining the route requirements, driver resources and on-boarding process. A 3-year comparison of employment dynamics illustrated the challenges in retaining drivers. Bus driver retention data indicates that 43% of drivers leave the district for other employment. Strategies are in place to help improve retention including more desired work schedules and hours, earning potential, and student management training. The entire presentation may be viewed here : <http://www.cmcss.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019-2020-Board-student-transportation-Goal-12-1.14.20.pptx>

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.

Since there was no motion made by the Board, the decision of the Director was upheld.

Comments

Board Members

Mr. Garland announced details of the Martin Luther King walk scheduled for January 20^h beginning and ending at Burt school.

Director's Comments

Mr. House welcomed the three new Commissioners recently appointed to the CMCSS School Liaison committee by Mayor Durrett (Rickey Ray, Josh Beal and Garland Johnson). For explanation, he offered the "Comments" section on the agenda is the opportunity for remarks they would like to add but it is not typically for Q & A. If there are questions during or after our Board meetings, they were encouraged and welcomed to email Mr. House. Mr. House said that he would respond accordingly with a copy to Mayor Durrett and then the information could be disseminated to other Commissioners as appropriate.

Mr. House gave an update on the last Coherence Lab Fellowship meeting. The Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Education were in attendance. The focus has been to gain a better understanding of the struggles facing TDOE and to bring attention to these issues. Other Directors across the state have been interviewed to learn their experiences, to obtain a broader perspective of the situation, and to implement a better deployment of the new strategic work that is out there.

Regarding the Kirkwood property resolution, Mr. House reported he had met with Mayor Durrett for clarification. The Mayor made it clear that the resolution spoke to the Kirkwood land being handed over after the purchase of land that the county is currently working on (Moore property). Mayor Durrett indicated that he would be in support of extending the land acquisition committee process in an effort to continue the search on another piece of land outside of the Moore property. The County and IDB are continuing their conversations with reference to building a new middle school. There is a land acquisition committee meeting scheduled for January 28.

Mr. House commented the legislative season has kicked off and that TSBA would be supporting the Grow Your Own program. We are looking at various local teacher organizations to see in what capacity they can provide support in some of the legislative priorities.

Mr. House reminded the Board of the upcoming Teacher of the Year awards on February 20 at Central Services South. He spoke of the new leadership at the James Corlew and is pleased to announce that Jason Blurton, Corlew General Manager, has committed to donating a new car to this event as they have in the past. This pledge speaks volumes in terms of community partnership and support from the Corlew organization.

With reference to the Emmanuel Life Center resolution, Mr. House informed the Board that the decision has been made to pull this request. After conversations with the Mayor as well as the CMCSS staff, the general consensus was that the long term economics made sense. Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer, and his team worked diligently to provide information detailing specific costs and incorporated all of the auxiliary pieces that go along with a new standalone facility. While the initial dollars will be more, over time this will be a smart financial decision for our district and taxpayers.

Mr. House noted the Grow Your Own program led by Dr. Sean Impeartrice has gained a lot of momentum. On January 21, CMCSS will host its own in-house interest meeting where substitutes and other employees of the district can learn about Grow Your Own. On January 23, there will be another meeting for external folks to learn the same. Mr. House commented he is excited about the recent Lipscomb partnership as well.

Mr. House mentioned a variety of MLK events planned in the near future. February 8 at Burt there will be a panel discussion with lunch provided and several CMCSS students will be participating. APSU will also be hosting a breakfast.

Lastly, Mr. House addressed the advocacy organization SCORE and shared that he would be speaking at an upcoming event. He said his focus will be around where we are in the legislative season, talking about teacher pay and teacher prep.

Items on the agenda having been completed, 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