

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

**June 20, 2023**

The Clarksville Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, June 20, 2023 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: District Chair Kent Griffy, Herbert Nelson, Margaret Pace, Charlie Patterson, Carol Berry, Jimmie Garland, and Aron Maberry. Also present were: Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder, Director of Schools; Mark Nolan, School Board Attorney; Dr. Angela Huff, Chief of Staff; Norm Brumblay, Chief Operations Officer; Melissa Izatt, Chief Human Resources Officer; Chris Reneau, Chief Financial Officer; Anthony Johnson, Chief Communications Officer; Carol Joiner, General Counsel; and Deb Cummings, acting School Board Secretary who documented minutes of the meeting. Members present of the County Commission School Liaison Committee: Rashidah Leverett, Ryan Gallant, John Gannon, Carmelle Chandler, and Walker Woodruff.

**Special Recognition**

The TSBA Board of Distinction Award was presented to the CMCSS Board by Mr. Jimmie Garland, TSBA Mid-Cumberland District Director and CMCSS School Board Vice Chair. This award recognizes the outstanding performance of a School Board as a whole in four specific areas: planning, policy, promotion, and board development.

**Public Conversation**

Mr. A.C. Lopez addressed the Board concerning the importance of free and open public debate. Mr. Lopez expressed concerns regarding students and social media, the lack of encouragement on the part of CMCSS for increased parent and community involvement directly within the schools, and a broader and more lenient platform for public conversation.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

On a motion by Mr. Jimmie Garland and a second by Mr. Aron Maberry, the Board approved the Consent Agenda 7-0. The Consent Agenda consisted of:

1. 05/16/2023 Regular Session Minutes
2. 2023-2024 MOU Between CMCEA & CMCSS, 1<sup>st</sup> Read 06/06/2023
3. FY 2023 Federal Budget Amendments, 1<sup>st</sup> Read 06/06/2023
4. Kirkwood Elementary Construction Resolution, 1<sup>st</sup> Read 06/06/2023
5. Review of recent changes to law regarding public comments, 1<sup>st</sup> Read 06/06/2023

**Policy Monitoring**

The policy monitoring report for **Executive Limitation 8 – Commitment to accomplishment, accountability, accreditation, reporting to the public** was interpreted by Dr. Luna-Vedder. The Director of Schools shall not fail to ensure that the School District maintains an accountability program. The Clarksville-Montgomery County School System has a comprehensive strategic planning process which includes using Level 1 (student achievement) and Level 2 (department performance) data. In addition to quantitative and qualitative data, the administration meets regularly to formally listen to how our performance is perceived by school leaders, stakeholder groups, and department leaders.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Pace to declare full compliance of this reporting period of EL-8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie Patterson. The motion passed 7-0.

**Reports**

**Executive Order 06/06/2023** requesting authorization to overspend the Retiree Medical Insurance Contribution account (GSJ00000-529900) by \$30,855.95 to cover the June 2023 contributions for the 2022-2023 school year which cannot be amended at this point. This overage will be covered by savings in various accounts from function 72310 - Board of Education and is anticipated it will have no overall impact on fund balance due to the savings that are expected from other accounts in this same function.

**Goal #12 – Promote consistent, meaningful parent and community engagement opportunities across the district** was presented by Anthony Johnson, Chief Communications Officer and his team: Jessica Forman-Goldberg, Director of Communications and Marketing; Tina Smith, Director of Professional Learning; and Elizabeth Vincent, Director of Continuous Improvement.

Mr. Johnson and his staff collectively reported on the background and areas of focus surrounding parent and community engagement opportunities. Those areas consisted of Better Together, family engagement programming, social media enhancement, family engagement pilot, and improved family and employee satisfaction. Other highlighted areas included Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), CMCSS Learning Centers, Families in Transition, SEL Supports, Strengthening Families, Kirkwood Middle and High Community Building, Partners in Education, Clarksville-Montgomery County Education Foundation, and Leadership CMCSS. The entire presentation can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.cmcss.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Board-presentation-goal-12.pdf>

Mr. Charlie Patterson complimented the Communications department for a job well-done, applauded their efforts in the vast realm of parent and community engagement opportunities, and concluded the department is an asset to CMCSS.

Mr. Herb Nelson expressed how refreshing it is to see what positive changes the Communications team has brought to the district and the invaluable support they continue to provide on a daily basis to students, staff, and the community. Mr. Nelson asked if there is any information on the website pertaining to reading as second graders transition to third grade. Mr. Johnson replied there continues to be on-going conversations with Dr. Schanda Doughty, Chief Academic Officer, and her staff as it specifically relates to third grade reading. In addition, Mr. Johnson referenced the online parent academic resources hub that is available; however, he stated currently the navigation is complicated and reassured more focus and group efforts are being pursued to develop a more user-friendly process for parents and all interested parties.

Mr. Jimmie Garland shared he was speaking with an elderly gentleman recently that was inquiring about the resources that are available to the community especially those that no longer have students in the system but would like to continue to be involved. Mr. Johnson offered several engagement opportunities to include CMCSS website, local newspaper coverage, social media, and reaching out to individual schools about volunteering and/or special projects that might be available.

Mr. Aron Maberry asked how parents are chosen for the PAC. Mr. Johnson responded parents are selected by administrators at each school. A PTO might be a good example of someone selected or invited to join the PAC. In addition, any parent interested in serving on this committee should contact their building administrator directly. Mr. Johnson stated agendas and minutes of these meetings are posted on the CMCSS website which is another excellent resource to stay engaged (<https://www.cmcss.net/parent-advisory-council/>). Mr. Maberry asked how many schools do not have social media accounts. Mr. Johnson stated there are only a few schools without active Facebook accounts for varying reasons such as lack of confidence on the part of administrators, fear of posting the wrong substance matter, or not having the correct tools to set up accounts. Mr. Johnson indicated the goal for 2023-2024 is to assist schools reach 100% in establishing their media accounts and is confident that by providing enhanced Meta tools along with encouragement and support it can be accomplished. Mr. Maberry commented he follows many of schools, enjoys viewing pictures on all their web pages, and is looking forward to seeing the remainder of those currently not available. Mr. Maberry asked if administrators have the capability to scrub material from accounts. Mr. Johnson confirmed super-admin privileges are in place to override, change, support or to push notifications (i.e., school closings).

Ms. Margaret Pace thanked the Communications department for their excellent presentation and for always ensuring parents, students, and the community are engaged and aware. Ms. Pace commented on the alarming number of displaced/homeless students. Mr. Johnson added the numbers fluctuate regarding the homeless situation and he credited the work our Families in Transition team is doing along with community support in finding homes for these families as expeditiously as possible.

Mrs. Carol Berry shared she is pleased to see an intentional focus being placed on pre-kindergartners as it relates to reading. Mrs. Berry feels this will have a significant impact on readers as there are a lot of children that have not been exposed to early literacy.

Mr. Kent Griffy commented he appreciated the Communications report and the great effort being put forth in promoting meaningful awareness county-wide to parents and stakeholders.

### **Comments**

#### **Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer**

Ms. Karen Watkins-Diouf, Ft. Campbell Liaison Officer, reported that they were very appreciative and excited to have had the opportunity to present at CMCSS' Engage training conference on June 7. CMCSS counselors were introduced to Ft. Campbell's Youth Sponsorship and other curricula from the Garrison designed to assist military families relocating to other parts of the country and changing schools.

#### **CMCEA/PET Representatives**

Ms. Constance Brown stated this would her last Board meeting to report as President of CMCEA. As she reflected on memories and tributes over the years, Ms. Brown commented she doesn't typically speak out about educational needs as she feels strongly that actions resonate much more effectively than words can describe. Ms. Brown spoke about transactional and transformational leadership and the importance each role plays as an educator. A transactional leader focuses on performance related to tasks and goals. A transformational leader is more concerned with elevating those around them in terms of self-esteem, maturity and ideals. Educators who can produce those short-term transactions are going to produce students equipped with all skills to be truly productive citizens. Transformational leaders produce educators who deliver on all cylinders. Since January, Ms. Brown indicated there has been a 9.5 % pay increase. However, she explained another part of the equation is grooming transformational leaders and ensuring all employees feel valued. Ms. Brown expressed her confidence in Dr. Luna-Vedder and the bright future ahead for CMCSS. Ms. Brown thanked everyone and said it has truly been a great pleasure and honor to serve the past 17 years.

Ms. Cathy Kolb, President of PET, commented she is very excited about Parent Square and the streamline process it will bring. Ms. Kolb recapped the Leader U conference held in early June and shared that Dr. B.J. Worthington was a guest speaker offering an excellent presentation on low performing schools. Ms. Kolb provided information about a book she highly recommends called *Maybe* written by Kobi Yamada. She feels the book is very powerful, applies to all grade levels and adults, and plans to share with her students.

### **County Commissioners**

No comments

### **Board Members**

Mr. Jimmie Garland talked about transformational leadership referring to a conversation he had with a CMCSS employee who wants to be a part of the organization but feels she may have to leave the district in order to get the job she feels qualified to have. Mr. Garland continued transformational leadership starts at the bottom and is something that the district does well but in some cases not well enough to keep those trained by CMCSS. Mr. Garland feels they are not going to stay if the district is not reaching to pull them up into the position for which they desire. Mr. Garland expressed his enjoyment in the session tonight and commented it was very special. Thanks to all for all you do.

Mr. Aron Maberry thanked the Board in covering for him last week as he was at camp. He thanked the Technology department for all the upgrades to the Boardroom. Mr. Maberry thanked Ms. Constance Brown for her service and dedication. Regarding public conversation, Mr. Maberry surmised the process is relatively unchanged other than moving from Study Session to Formal meetings.

Mr. Nelson congratulated the Board on the Board of Distinction Award and expressed how proud he is to be a part of the organization. Referencing public comments, Mr. Nelson stated he is a strong believer in the First Amendment and the right to address any issue of concern. Mr. Nelson reminded the public any Board member can be reached by phone or email as they are all public servants. Mr. Nelson also thanked Ms. Constance Brown for her service and for inviting him to the CMCEA meeting where he obtained a greater perspective and appreciation from their members and organization.

### **Director of Schools Report**

Dr. Luna-Vedder reported even though classes are out for the summer the work continues. Furthermore, our summer learning camps are off to a great start and will continue to run through July 20. Last week a STEM summer camp was held at two different locations for fourth graders called Camp Invention which was a huge success. Activities were performed around Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and were truly engaging for the campers. In addition, Dr. Luna-Vedder extended a huge shout-out to other essential departments during this busy season such as our building custodians, facilities, landscaping crews, and our technology team who go above and beyond during the summer months to ensure we are prepared for returning students in August. Dr. Luna-Vedder assured Ms. Constance Brown is not leaving the district and stated CMCSS is pleased she will continue to work for us as an educator. Thank you for what you do at TCAT.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Board Chair Kent Griffy adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Kent Griffy  
Board Chair



Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder  
Director of Schools



Deb Cummings  
Acting Board Secretary