

Minutes
Clarksville-Montgomery County
Board of Education

October 17, 2023

The Clarksville Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, October 17, 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, 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; David Holman, Chief Technology Officer; Melissa Izatt, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Schanda Doughty, Chief Academic Officer; Chris Reneau, Chief Financial Officer; Anthony Johnson, Chief Communications Officer, Carol Joiner, General Counsel; and LaTonya Long, School Board Secretary who documented minutes of the meeting. Members present of the County Commission School Liaison Committee: Ryan Gallant

Point of Pride Awards

Anthony Johnson, Chief Communications Officer announced the following point of pride awards

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: CHS; Coda Johns, RHS; Saanvi Burle, Justin Zheng

2023 National Blue-Ribbon School: Middle College at APSU.

2023-2024 Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement Winner: MCHS; Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kalena E. Towe

Public Conversation

No Requests

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Jimmie Garland and seconded by Ms. Margaret Pace the Board approved the Consent Agenda 5-0. The Consent Agenda consisted of:

1. 09/19/2023 Regular Session Minutes

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for **Executive Limitation 4–Financial Planning/Budgeting**: was interpreted by Dr. Luna-Vedder. Financial planning for any fiscal year shall align with the Board's Ends Policies, not risk fiscal jeopardy, nor fail to be derived from a multi-year plan. I interpret this to mean that as the system's goals and strategic work are annually developed, they will be aligned to the Board's Ends policies, and financial resources will support those ends, goals and work. As the budget process is carried out, consideration is given to the budgetary needs beyond one year.

A motion was made by Mr. Charlie Patterson to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herbert Nelson (No Discussion) Motion passed 5-0.

The policy monitoring report for **Executive Limitation 10– Learning Environment and Student Discipline/Safety** was interpreted by Dr. Luna-Vedder. The Director of Schools shall provide a safe learning environment conducive to effective learning. Accordingly, the Director of Schools shall: Develop, publish and annually distribute a written student code of conduct to all students and parents. Assure that discipline policies are fairly and consistently enforced using reasonable judgment. Develop and maintain emergency and disaster plans with regular testing of their effectiveness; Minimize unnecessary disruption that encroaches on instructional time; Prohibit illegal discrimination; Protect confidential information and records.

A motion was made by Mr. Jimmie Garland to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-10. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie Patterson (No Discussion). Motion passed 5-0.

Reports

TISA District Accountability Report Template was presented by Dr. Schanda Doughty, Chief Academic Officer. The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) public school funding formula marks a significant change in how Tennessee invests in public education. As part of TISA, T.C.A. § 49-3-112 requires each school district, starting in the 2023-24 school year, to submit an annual accountability report to the Tennessee Department of Education. This report must include goals for student achievement to include 70% of students will score proficient on the 3rd grade ELA TCAP by 2030-2031, 70% of students in 3-5, 6-8 and HS will achieve proficiency on the ELA TCAP by 2030 and 70% of graduating HS students will be identified as Ready Graduates by 2030. Each district's TISA accountability report is required to be presented to the public for review and comment before the report is submitted to the department. The report must be submitted annually to the department by November 1st. Dr. Doughty outlined the districts action plans for

meeting each of these goals that includes consistent implementation of ELA, and math HQIM, high dosage, low ratio tutoring, summer programming, high quality ACT curriculum materials, appropriate interventions and teacher training.

Comments

Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer

Ms. Laquvia Garrett Liaison Officer reported that she and Ms. Watkins-Diouf will be a part of the joint services liaison program speaking on the status of education for Tennessee concerning military connected youth. Ms. Garrett and Ms. Watkins-Diouf will be collecting information from other military branches in Tennessee on their MIC-3 challenges to formulate a consolidated brief about military connected students. Ms. Garrett reported that there are no issues to report for Montgomery County and thanked CMCSS for the work that is done on behalf of the district's military connected students.

CMCEA/PET Representatives

Ms. Stefi Outlaw, President of CMCEA announced that CMCEA has produced 900 PECCA petition signatures and the petition was turned in to central office on October 4th. Ms. Outlaw addressed a member concern that she sent to the Board last month regarding the "see you at the pole event". Ms. Outlaw stated that she was publicly accused of launching a formal complaint on social media by a Board member for using their official capacity as a Board member to promote the event. Ms. Outlaw shared that she emailed a members concern that was brought to her to the Board's Chair and the Board's Attorney. The entire premise of her email was concerning equity and accountability. Teacher's support events such as the "see you at the pole event" but are not allowed to use their capacity as school employees to promote or organize them. Ms. Outlaw shared that she emailed the School Board Attorney as to understand her role as a teacher and the Board Attorney stated that he was the Board's attorney and had a general understanding that teacher's and other district employees cannot promote, distribute or help organize religious activities in the schools in their official district capacity. Ms. Outlaw stated that if teachers are not allowed to promote these activities, she is not sure why Board members are allowed. Ms. Outlaw commented that she is also concerned about the precedence being set regarding public retaliation of teachers at the hands of school board members on social media, stating that all CMCSS employees are held to a very high standard of ethical behavior on social media and she expects no less from board members.

Ms. Cathy Kolb, President of PET reported that the state has appointed a panel to consider rejecting federal dollars in education. Currently Tennessee receives 1.8 billion dollars in title I, IDEA and other federal funding each year that supports low-income students, students with disabilities and school lunch programs. Ms. Kolb stated that speaking with speaker Cameron Sexton and Lt. Governor Randy McNally they identified legitimate concerns about the bureaucracy associated with federal education funding. Ms. Kolb shared that states and school districts want to have more control over their education policies and programs but also rely on federal funding to support their educational initiatives. Accepting federal money also comes with strings attached in the form of policy directives and regulations that may not align with the states priorities and preferences. Ultimately the decision to accept or reject federal money for education is a matter of policy and political debate at the state and local levels that requires careful consideration of benefits and draw-backs as well as the commitment to ensuring the education system effectively serves the needs of students while maintaining the states and local control. Ms. Kolb shared that letter grades on how schools are graded have been discussed (A-F), sharing that Dr. Luna-Vedder is on the committee and Ms. Kolb is hopeful that Dr. Luna-Vedder will steer the committee in the right direction.

County Commissioners

No Comments

Board Members

Ms. Pace shared that the Tennessee Promise mentor program is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are asked to devote a couple of hours a month to encourage college bound students that need extra support and encouragement. Volunteers will be provided a script from the Tennessee Achieves Department. Volunteers are assigned 8 to 10 students each year and the program last for 6-8 months. The deadline to sign-up is Friday, October 20th. For more information and to volunteer contact Tennessee Promise or Ms. Margaret Pace.

Mr. Garland thanked Ms. Kolb for her comments concerning federal funding for education. Mr. Garland stated that the 1.8 billion in federal funds were for disadvantaged students stating that it does not matter whether the money comes with strings attached or not. The purpose of directives and regulations are to make sure the money gets to where it is supposed to go. Mr. Garland also stated that board members need to let their legislators know how strongly they feel concerning accepting federal funding whether they are for or against it.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Luna-Vedder reported that the district is in the first week of students, faculty and staff returning from fall break, stating that she is optimistic that the break allowed them much needed time to rest and rejuvenate. This year the district

Minutes, Board of Education, October 17, 2023 - Page 3

continues to emphasize employee satisfaction and retention as a strategic priority. One of the tools leveraged is the districts partnership with independent consultant Upbeat that allows for anonymous results of feedback from employees separated by the work place. The intent is to identify best practices in potential areas of improvement as the district strives to make CMCSS the best school district to both work and attend in the state of Tennessee. Once the survey closes the data will be closely examined to find any trends in opportunities for growth and will be shared with the Board as well as ideas for next steps. Last year the data was very helpful in increasing the districts retention numbers.

Families have begun receiving the annual Impact Aid survey. As a reminder the survey is designed to assist school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal properties such as Ft. Campbell. CMCSS utilizes this funding to help support programs such as JROTC, after school programs and summer learning opportunities. The district appreciates the support and partnership of Ft. Campbell to ensure all of these families are being reached.

As CMCSS looks to open Kirkwood Elementary in fall of 2024 and potentially elementary 26 in 2026 an independent consulting firm is assisting with options for elementary rezoning for next school year. In the coming months the district will be providing families and the community with more details on how to provide feedback on the options that are being explored.

Items on the agenda having been completed, Board Chair Kent Griffy adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Kent Griffy
Board Chair

Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder
Director of Schools

LaTonya Long
School Board Secretary