

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

February 20, 2024

The Clarksville Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, February 20, 2024 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, Jimmie Garland, Carol Berry, Charlie Patterson 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, Jessica Harris, Director of Elementary Schools; Amanda Nicks, Director of Elementary Schools; Christy Houston, Director of High Schools; 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: Carmelle Chandler, David Harper, Nathan Burkholder, Autumn Simmons, Chris Rasnic

Point of Pride Awards

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

ACT Perfect Score

Rossvie High School: Cade Deterding – Perfect Score of 36 on ACT

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Conference

Montgomery Central High School

Austin Mason – 1st Place in Interviewing Skills (\$15,000 scholarship), Brooke Mangrum – 2nd Place in Lesson Plan Development and Modification (\$8,000 scholarship), Tyler Mills – Score of 98.5 in highly competitive Toys that Teach category

State of Tennessee Art Review and Showcase

Rossvie Elementary School: Areen David, 2nd Place in the State of Tennessee Art Review and Showcase

All-State Musicians

Clarksville High School: Mac Mackdanz – All-State Band (Andrew Gaskill, director)

Montgomery Central High School: Andrew Wall – All-State Choir (Angela Rouse, director)

Rossvie High School: Jamie Noland – All-State Band (Brandon Reynolds, director) Elizabeth Stevens – All-State Choir (Kristina Waugh, director)

Honor Band of America

Northeast High School: Jaden Steele – Honor Band of America (Blair Boothe, director)

TSSAA Bowling

Northwest High School: Northwest High School Unified Bowling Team, Runner-up in TSSAA State Bowling Championship; Coaches: Cristy Guevara and Leandra Jenkins

National High School Cheerleading Competition (NHSCC)

Clarksville High School: Bronze Medal in D1 Small Varsity Game Day Division; Coaches: Kim Thurman and Kaitlyn Kinslow, Anna Grace Parker, Marie Brock, Ari Sohn, Jamiyah Leeks, Blair Butcher, Chloe Blevins, Ella Gallagher, Julie Alford, Kinsley Savage, Madalynne Brunner, McKenna Carbin, Sania Baugh, Ella Roberts, Kennedy Lang, Graham Bryant, Laney Rogers, Peyton Hay, Aubrie Hardy, Mayleigh Carbin, Shaliah Griffey, Ava Austin, Kylee Claret

Public Conversation

Mr. Ascencion Lopez addressed the Board on considering updating CMCSS' policy for the naming of schools.

Ms. Faye Hobson-Morales addressed the Board on the lack of teacher and administrator diversity in the district and shared her personal experiences.

Ms. Haley Dinh addressed the board on the student code of conduct zero tolerance offenses, processes related to student discipline, the AGE program and her personal experience.

State Representative Ronnie Glenn addressed the Board on public education related to legislation on federal funding and school vouchers. Rep. Glenn shared polices that he will be recommending for legislation.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Charlie Patterson and seconded by Ms. Margaret Pace the Board approved the Consent Agenda 7-0. The Consent Agenda consisted of:

1. 01/22/2024 Regular Session Minutes

2. Resolution Design Fees for CMCSS Elementary School #26, 1st Read 02/06/2024
3. 2023-2024 Federal Budget Amendments, 1st Read 02/06/2024

Policy Monitoring

The policy monitoring report for **Executive Limitation 3–Personnel Administration**: was interpreted by Dr. Luna-Vedder. 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. Accordingly, the Director of Schools may not: Change his or her own compensation and benefits; promise or imply permanent employment to any employee; create obligations over a longer term than revenues safely can be projected or as allowed by law. The Director of Schools will; Select the most highly qualified and best-suited candidates for all positions. Develop and administer a system for initial hiring, evaluating and rehiring of staff for extra and co-curricular activities sponsored by the district.

A motion was made by Mr. Jimmie Garland to declare full compliance for this reporting period of EL-3. The motion was seconded by Ms. Margaret Pace (No Discussion) Motion passed 7-0.

Board Discussion & Consideration

Naming of Elementary School #26; Chairman Griffy called for a motion to accept or deny the Directors naming recommendation for Elementary School #26 (Freedom Valley Elementary School). A motion was made by Mr. Patterson to accept the recommended name. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maberry. (Discussion) Ms. Berry stated that she could not support the name presented for Elementary School #26 due to findings of the research she made on the name as the said name would not reflect well on one of CMCSS' schools.

Mr. Nelson asked would the policy have to be changed in order to name a CMCSS school after an individual? Mr. Griffy answered yes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to look at changing the policy on naming district schools. The motion could not be accepted at that time as the previous motion was still on the floor.

Mr. Garland commented that he was in agreement with Ms. Berry's statements and thanked Mr. Lopez for his comments on naming school facilities after community leaders. Mr. Garland is in support of naming school facilities after community leaders posthumously that have made significant contributions to the community in which the school will be located, to the school system and to Montgomery County. Mr. Garland also stated that the way the name was presented to the board was wrong.

Ms. Berry stated she also disagrees with the way the name was selected and brought to the board for approval, stating that CMCSS' core values and mission should have been considered first, followed by brainstorming, preliminary hearings, research and citizen input before being presented (No Further Discussion).

"Calling for the question" was made by Mr. Patterson to approve the recommended school name. Motion failed 3-3-1.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to revisit the district's policy on naming school facilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patterson. (No Discussion) Motion passed 7-0.

Comments

Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer

Ms. Watkins-Diouf on behalf of Ft. Campbell's Garrison Commander thanked Dr. Luna-Vedder for attending Ft. Campbell's annual Student Transition Response Team Meeting and Resource Fair. Ms. Watkins-Diouf announced that March is "Music in our Schools" Month. During the month of March, the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault Band visits local schools and neighboring communities to perform and interact with students. Several district schools have scheduled visits and the band is looking forward to more schools scheduling.

CMCEA/PET Representatives

Ms. Stefi Outlaw, President of CMCEA offered comments on the general assembly agenda, specifically items that have previously been on the agenda to include school safety, education savings accounts, 3rd grade retention, this year's 4th grade retention requirements, curriculum and books and school accountability, stating that communities including their educators must be influencing all decisions that impact their students, educators and families.

Ms. Cathy Kolb, President of PET offered comments on the universal voucher bill being presented in the legislature, stating that advocates of universal voucher's argue that they will enhance public school's students' education quality, however most students that would benefit from universal vouchers are already attending private schools. School vouchers

Minutes, Board of Education, February 20, 2024 - Page 3

as currently presented will not improve public education in Tennessee, income, school quality, or eligibility parameters traditionally set for families and schools in need should be considered. Children's needs should be the top priority in Tennessee's education policy.

County Commissioners

No Comments

Board Members

Mr. Garland commented that he agreed with the comments made by the teacher associations representatives. Mr. Garland stated that education is the new moral currency of the world, stating that a child's education is going to determine whether they are successful or not and made comments on the universal voucher bill benefiting those who are economically advantaged stating that his focus will always be on every child in Montgomery County receiving a quality education.

Mrs. Berry commented on being committed to doing an act of kindness everyday and shared her experience with showing kindness.

Mr. Patterson clarified the reason for his motion to accept the Directors recommendation for the naming of elementary school #26 was for the board to be able to have discussion.

Mr. Maberry Congratulated all of the point of pride recipients. Mr. Maberry stated that as Mr. Garland's comments were addressed as the board, he did not necessarily agree stating that he believes in school choice and parent's rights to choose for their child even if the universal voucher finance helps and that he is in agreement with being able to name a school in honor of deceased persons.

Mr. Griffy addressed Mr. Nelson's motion related to the naming of elementary school #26 stating that there is no rush on finding a name for the new school, however, a time frame for placing the item on the agenda should be determined. The policy review item will be placed on the March 12, 2024 study session agenda. Mr. Griffy stated that he appreciated the Director and staff for following the current protocols for recommending a school name and thanked them for their hard work. He also made a recommendation to keep up with the laws being proposed in the legislature that will affect the school system as there are legal changes being made that may have a negative impact on public schools. Mr. Griffy thanked Rep. Glynn for attending the meeting.

Director of Schools Report

Dr. Luna-Vedder stated that hopefully everyone has been following social media over the past couple of weeks as CMCSS' teachers of the year have been highlighted, stating that seeing and hearing about the impact the district's educators have on the lives of students never ceases to amaze her. Dr. Luna-Vedder stated that she is looking forward to honoring CMCSS' teachers of the year at a banquet later this week and cannot wait to see who will win the trip to Cabo. Last week was the deadline for families to apply for schools of choice. Approximately 1,300 applications were submitted including almost 700 applications for CMCSS' nine high school academies, 101 applications for Moore Magnet Stem, 151 applications for Spanish Immersion at Barksdale, 159 applications for the Middle College at APSU, 114 new Virtual School applications and 84 submissions for the Early Technical College at TCAT, not including all of the seats coming available through open-enrollment in early March. CMCSS will continue to ensure that families in CMCSS have options to find the right fit for their student.

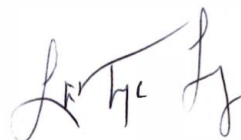
Items on the agenda having been completed, Board Chair Kent Griffy adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Kent Griffy
Board Chair



Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder
Director of Schools



LaTonya Long
School Board Secretary