

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

**August 18, 2026**

The Clarksville Montgomery County Board of Education convened Tuesday, August 18, 2026 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: Chris Lanier, Board Chair; Carol Berry, Kacie Bryant, Jimmie Garland, Kent Griffy, Aron Maberry and Teresa Crosslin. Also present were: Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder, Director of Schools; Mark Nolan, School Board Attorney; Dr. Chris Causey, Chief of Staff; Norm Brumblay, Chief Operations Officer; Jeff Taylor, Chief Financial Officer; Melissa Izatt, Chief Human Resource Officer; Dr. Schanda Doughty, Chief Academic Officer; Anthony Johnson, Chief Communications Officer; David Holman, Chief Technology Officer; Bryan Feldman, Director of High Schools; Jessica Harris, Director of Elementary Schools, Amanda Nicks, Director of Elementary Schools, Matthew Slight, Director of Middle 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, Josh Beal, David Shelton, John Gannon, Jeremiah Walker, Clayton Rudder

**Point of Pride Awards**

**2026 Middle School Track State Championship**-CMCSS Relay Team- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in 4x200m Relay Coach: Christina Webb, **Kenwood Middle School** Morgan Chapman, **Montgomery Central Middle School** Sadie Pegram, **New Providence Middle School** Acquese Marshall, **Northeast Middle School** Jazaniya Price

**2026 High School Track State Championship**-**Kenwood High School** Marie Jones, TSSAA Class AAA State Track, 4<sup>th</sup> Place in Discus, **Montgomery Central High School** Avery Young, TSSAA Class AA State Track, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Boys 3200 Meter, **Northwest High School** Gabrielle Taylor, TSSAA Class AAA State Track, 4<sup>th</sup> Place in Girls Triple Jump

**2026 High School Girls' Flag Football State Championship**-**West Creek High School** State Finalist and Region 7 Champions, Brooklynn Adams, MJ Anthony, Nahliyani Beasley, Mariana Bowen, Abby Card, Lynnda Cassady, Savannah Clark, Nicole Cushionberry, Deja Franklin, Samantha Franklin, Aaliyah Godfrey, Di'Anna Hudson, Marlie LaFrenier, Bella Laurin, Irelynn Laurin, E'rión Little, Aubrey McRae, Caitlyn Mercado, Lewiana Merriweather, Alexis Mock, Charlene Nunn, Kori Redding, Alyssandra Rodriguez, Lyssandra Rodriguez, Jayla Simpson, Ke'Aanna Wysinger, Savannah Yacopino, Coach: Aaron King

**2026 National Junior Classical League Convention**-**Kirkwood High School**, David Lee 1<sup>st</sup> Place Latin Literature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Classical Art, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Greek Life and Literature, Ekaterina Oelgoetz 1<sup>st</sup> Place Pottery

State Representative Ronnie Glenn presented a proclamation from the State of Tennessee to Mr. Jimmie Garland in recognition of his time on the CMCSS school board. Chris Lanier, Board Chair presented a proclamation from the State of Tennessee to Mr. Aron Maberry in recognition of his time on the school board.

Plaques were presented to Mr. Jimmie Garland, Mr. Aron Maberry and Ms. Teresa Crosslin from the school district in commemoration of their service on the CMCSS school board.

**Public Conversation**

Adam Ellithorpe addressed the school board on school safety.

Megan Wise addressed the school board on CMCSS' policies regarding private pay ABAS in schools as outside service providers.

Rebecca Loathwall addressed the school board on transportation hardships affecting her family.

Ashanti Gray addressed the school board on the bus crash and school board accountability for public school safety.

Mary Katherine Ivey addressed the school board on the new outside service provider policy.

Carissa Coker addressed the school board on CMCSS' policies regarding HB2327.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

On a motion by Mr. Aron Maberry and seconded by Ms. Kacie Bryant the School Board approved the Consent Agenda 7-0. The Consent Agenda consisted of

1. 07/21/2026 Regular Session Minutes
2. Surplus Property School Buses-Vehicle Maintenance, 1<sup>st</sup> Read, 08/04/2026
3. Retiree Insurance 2026 Update, 1<sup>st</sup> Read, 08/04/2026
4. August Federal Budget Amendments, 1<sup>st</sup> Read, 08/04/2026

### **Reports**

Norm Brumblay, Chief Operations Officer presented an update on Elementary School #27. The presentation consisted of data addressing school capacities from 2022-2026, review of CMCSS' comprehensive elementary rezoning, current elementary capacities, current 10-year construction plan, current status of ES #27 and next steps. Mr. Brumblay and Mr. Anthony Johnson answered questions related to school prototype, timeline and design phase for EM#27. Mr. Griffy requested that EM#27 be placed on a future agenda to discuss prototype and design. The entire presentation can be reviewed at the following link: <https://www.cmcoss.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Elementary-School-27-Board-Update.pdf>

### **Board Discussion & Consideration**

**Modification of Public Participation Policy:** Mr. Maberry made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the CMCSS public participation policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crosslin. (Discussion) Mr. Maberry stated that he asked Mr. Mark Nolan, board attorney, to email the board the proposed changes and that he also sent the proposal to various news outlets. Mr. Maberry stated that several news outlets had broadcasts on the proposal and the public at large has been able to get the information on the proposed changes. The proposed changes are concerning maintaining decorum during school board meetings while protecting everyone's right to participate. Mr. Maberry stated that he fully supports an individual's right to peacefully protest and hold a sign but that right should not come at the expense of someone else's ability to see, hear or participate in a meeting. The proposal includes, individuals remaining in their seats and not obstruct the view of others. The proposal still allows signs and peaceful protest. (No further discussion). Motion passed 5-1-1.

### **Comments**

#### **Ft. Campbell School Liaison Officer**

Ms. Karen Watkins-Diouf reported that school visits will begin in Mid-September and shared that the liaison officers are ready and willing to assist district schools.

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

Ms. Stefi Outlaw, President of CMCEA stated that preparing a school district for opening is no small task. Ms. Outlaw recognized district administrators, principals, teachers and all classified employees that are responsible for making it possible. Ms. Outlaw also stated that a successful first day happens due to people across the community working together, and commented on the importance of partnerships. Ms. Outlaw thanked the outgoing board members for their service and commitment to CMCSS students.

Ms. Jill Dockins, introduced herself as the new representative for Professional Educators of Tennessee (PET). Ms. Dockins has been an ESL teacher for 18 years, currently serving at Northeast Elementary School. Ms. Dockins stated that the membership is looking forward to a new school year where they celebrate academic successes of district schools and recognizes the hard work of educators.

#### **County Commissioners**

Commissioner Gannon, thanked the outgoing board members for their service to CMCSS and is looking forward to working with the newly elected and re-elected members to continue the success of the Montgomery County School System.

Commissioner Shelton made comments on the boards concerns as related to board policies vs. parents concerns and commented on parliamentary procedures and questioned its legality as related to CMCSS' public participation modifications.

Commissioner Walker thanked the outgoing board members for their service and made comments on the pledge as related to liberty and justice for all and the treatment of others.

### **Board Members**

Mr. Maberry asked Mr. Nolan to clarify the legality of the public policy modifications as related to Commissioner Shelton's comments. Mr. Nolan shared that the modifications of the public participation policy is constitutional and is supported by case law. Mr. Maberry stated that the board simply wants to warm the room as the county commission chambers are warmed. Mr. Maberry wished Ms. Christina Trawinski good luck as the new board member for district 7. Mr. Maberry made comments about his time on the board and thanked everyone for their respect, kindness, love and decorum, stating that they will be missed.

Ms. Bryant shared that she has been quiet about a lot of things that has recently happened in the district, as some things are in litigation. Ms. Bryant made comments about her time on the board as related to issues the district face and the

complexities of the job as a school board member. Ms. Bryant stated that issues may seem simple from the outside but rarely are, stating that there are federal and state laws to consider, board policies, student and employee privacy, legal responsibilities and information that may not be made public. Ms. Bryant commented further about her experiences as a board member stating, that she has learned how quickly a complicated situation can be reduced to a headline, a social media post or a few seconds of a video. Ms. Bryant encouraged everyone to give each other a little grace and a little less suspicion, to ask questions before making accusations, to pick up the phone before making a post and to sit down with someone before deciding who they are and what their motives are. Ms. Bryant thanked the outgoing county commissioner's and board members for their service.

Ms. Crosslin, shared that she attended the funerals of Ariana and Zoe and introduced herself to their parents. Ms. Crosslin gifted the families with memorial windchimes as she cared for the families and what they were going through. Ms. Crosslin commented that she has enjoyed serving on the board and thanked board members for all of their support.

Mr. Garland shared that tonight's meeting would be his last and made comments about serving on the board for over 20 years and how he has enjoyed being an advocate for students, faculty and staff in this district, voting to make sure students had the tools they needed to become productive citizens. Mr. Garland made comments on the challenges the district has faced over the years and the outcomes of those challenges. Mr. Garland thanked the county commissioners and the board for their mutual work over the years, stating that he has enjoyed every minute of it. Mr. Garland encouraged the director to continue to do the work with her head held up.

Mrs. Berry, commented on being humble, kindness and prayer as it is her practice. Mrs. Berry stated that she is on the board because she cares about the students and educators in this district. Mrs. Berry stated that she is thankful that the people spoke and wanted to keep her on the board, stating that she is transparent and can be trusted. Mrs. Berry thanked the outgoing board members for their service and commented on their work and sacrifice as board members.

Mr. Griffy, made comments on the bus tragedy and the effects and pain of that tragedy to the parents and community as a whole, stating that although there is not a lot of action the board can take at this time, they are listening to the parents. Mr. Griffy commented on the safety of buses, the training hours of bus drivers', employment requirements and the distance school buses travel safely each school year.

Mr. Griffy further stated that he does not know how to say enough about the director, stating that with Dr. Luna-Vedder as the director of schools the district have had historical proficiency gains and accountability outcomes in the school system, with a record-breaking multi-year academic growth from 2022-2026. TDOE data released shows CMCSS is improving efficiency faster than the state average in almost every category and is outpacing growth in all categories in academic achievement.

Mr. Griffy also reported that 70% of district schools earned an A or B grade from TDOE. In 2025, 30 district schools earned TDOE Honor Roll status and maintained zero failing school grades across all 45 schools. The district experienced historic 2026 test score gains despite losing 11 full instructional days due to the weather crisis last year. Mr. Griffy stated that, these achievement's show real leadership and that they are the accomplishments of a real leader. Mr. Griffy stated that CMCSS has a director to be proud of and one that should be supported.

Mr. Griffy recognized the outgoing board members, stating that it has been a pleasure to serve with each of them and to have insights and ideas from them that has helped shape the direction of the school system. Mr. Griffy thanked them for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Maberry, recognized CMCSS leadership and staff, stating that it has been an honor working with them and stated that Dr. Luna-Vedder is the best director that Clarksville Montgomery County has had.

Mr. Lanier, thanked the staff that attended the City Council meeting to show support as the council considered removing funding from CMCSS. Mr. Lanier made comments on meetings he has had with his constituents and shared that he has future meetings planned. Mr. Lanier thanked all of the outgoing board members and presented Mr. Garland with the board room gavel as a former board chair.

### **Director of Schools Report**

Dr. Luna-Vedder thanked CMCSS' 6,000 employees for a successful first week of school, for the hours spent setting up classrooms, changing and adding bus routes, making room for students that were not anticipated and for making those students feel welcomed. Dr. Luna-Vedder thanked teachers for choosing education and continuing in education. Dr.

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Luna-Vedder also thanked the outgoing board members stating that they have worked tirelessly and that they will be missed.

Items on the agenda being completed, Mr. Lanier adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.



Chris Lanier  
Board Chair



Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder  
Director of Schools



LaTonya Long  
School Board Secretary