



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes for October 18, 2021

The Maryville Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on October 18 at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School. Board members present were Nick Black, Julie Elder, Bethany Pope, Chad Hampton, and Candy Morgan. Chairman Black called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence and remembrance for Sam Houston CDC teaching assistant, Kayla Tillie Rooney, who recently passed away. The Pledge of Allegiance, led by seventh grader Gabe Schito, then followed.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kevin Myers, MRIS principal, led the board and those in attendance through the evolution of CAPTURING KIDS HEARTS at MRIS. The overarching theme for the program is “Be the best version of you” – where faculty and staff own all students and change the lens used to evaluate student needs. Seventh grade students at “The Ridge” can participate in a program called LEADWORTHY – teaching students leadership skills they can hone at school as the oldest class in the MRIS student body.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Black then called for a vote to adopt the meeting agenda. Candy Morgan moved to adopt the agenda. Bethany Pope seconded the motion. The meeting agenda received unanimous approval.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public commented on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Bethany Pope made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Candy Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried with full agreement.

1. Approve Minutes of September 20, 2021 meeting
2. Ratify Executive Committee approval of Maryville Jr. High School tennis team overnight trip to Murfreesboro, TN
3. Approve MHS AP Art Department request to travel to Atlanta, GA. Students will fund the trip.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Consider Board Policy section 6.3071** – Student Alcohol and Drug Testing. This policy change clarifies that the voluntary student drug-testing program at Maryville Academy is only available for students placed there for zero tolerance offenses.
 - a. Motion to approve by Bethany Pope. Second by Julie Elder. Unanimous approval.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Winstead used his time on the agenda to discuss growth and review current and pending facilities projects. With regard to growth statistics, Dr. Winstead demonstrated how the recently approved elementary rezoning plan would help with capacity issues. However, after making the new zoning adjustment, three schools (MJHS, MRIS, and SHE) will still be over capacity and the other four schools will be within the 90 percentile of capacity. Winstead also discussed current enrollment and discussed the cycle of class sizes - from 398 at the lowest (currently) to 471 at the highest.

To accommodate growth, the 2019-20 Facilities Planning Study shows how these projected enrollment increases might be managed. Strategies include expanding MHS to include grades 9-12, expanding MJHS to become MMS again – for grades 7 and 8, and building a new elementary school or expanding Sam Houston to the size of the other two elementary schools.

Work on the roof at MJHS is currently underway. Cope Architecture is working to complete design on an expansion plan at MJHS, to include 10-12 new classrooms and renovations to the front office, administration, and guidance areas of the school. Final construction documents are expected in mid-January, followed by contract bidding, and board approval. Construction should begin in spring of 2022, with a move-in projection of summer 2023.

Ongoing facilities projects include HVAC work at MRIS, roofing work at MRIS and MJHS, and upgrades at the softball complex.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

@MHS

- The MHS Red Rebel Marching Band earned 1st place in band and percussion at the Karns Marching Invitational Contest on September 25th.

@MJHS

- The MJHS Tennis Team was the 2021 USTA Tennessee Gold Division Runner Up in State competition.

@CGIS

- The CGIS art program is participating as a research partner with UTK that has resulted in publishing one scholarly article, with another underway. Also, the team will present their research at the 2022 NAEA National Convention. Ericka Ryba, art teacher at CGIS, and Dr. Joy Bertling at UTK are researching data visualization as critical place-based art education.
- To kickoff basketball season at CGIS, ESL teacher Elissa Lane hosted a “Tailgate in Town Square” event. For many who participated, it was their first American sporting event. Future tailgate events will be held for CDC and other small groups.
- 5th grader Colt Myers was selected to the “USA Game Day Tournament” for baseball, where only the top 10% of baseball players in the country are invited. He was the ONLY player selected from Tennessee.

@SHE

- Congratulations to Sam Houston Elementary on being named a 2022 Blue Ribbon School. This national recognition of excellence is an honor indeed and one the school and everyone in Maryville can celebrate. SHE joins Foothills (a two-time winner) and Maryville Middle School, as winners of this prestigious award.

@FHE

- The annual Raccoon Romp fundraising event will be held at Foothills on Friday. Students enjoyed a fun-filled pep rally last Friday with band members and cheerleaders from MRIS leading the way. The MHS Dance team also joined the fun. One curious kindergartener asked if they would need to eat “peppers” at the rally!

@MRIS

- Today was a big day in the science department at MRIS. 4th grade science teachers have long awaited the opportunity to introduce students to the Hands-On Science Kits purchased recently by the MCS Foundation. Today’s classroom topic was Fossils!
- Congratulations to 4th graders Haley Paul, Hadley Truelove, Lottie LaMonica, and Mei Mizokami who earned the title of iReady Champions for the first 9-week period. Students received a giant size candy bar for their accomplishments.

@MHS

- Voting for the Titan High School Game of the Week began this morning and the MHS/West game this Friday is in the running. If selected, the team could win \$2000. Please follow social media or go to the TN Titans website and select “game of the week” to vote.
- MHS Volleyball will play in the state tournament in Murfreesboro tomorrow. Best of luck to these hard working players and coaches.
- MHS Girls Soccer will compete in regional semifinals tomorrow against Powell High School. Good luck to these student athletes as well.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- **Chad Hampton** thanked Mr. Myers and his team. He noted that the initial design of the expansion at MJHS looks good.
- **Candy Morgan** thanked MRIS and appreciated the facilities and growth update from Dr. Winstead.
- **Julie Elder** congratulated the district and schools on the Niche.Com rankings that were so outstanding. She also thanked Mr. Myers for his school update.
- **Bethany Pope** thanked the MRIS administrators and faculty for their continued hard work and was especially pleased to learn more about the LEADWORTHY program for 7th graders.
- **Chairman Black** acknowledged the many fall sports that are in full swing and having great seasons. With that note, he adjourned the meeting in hopes of making it to Coulter Grove for a game.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Anglim.