

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Minutes  
June 25, 2013

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call</li> </ul>	<p>Present: Cheryl D. Mayes, Chair Dr. Jo Ann Brannon Amy Frogge Michael W. Hayes Dr. Sharon Gentry Elissa Kim Will Pinkston Anna Shepherd, Vice-Chair Jill Speering Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools</p> <p>Ms. Mayes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge of Allegiance</li> </ul>	Led by Meredith Libbey, Assistant to the Director for Communications.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Recommendation for Thurgood Marshall School of Career Development</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the charter application for Thurgood Marshall School of Career Development. Mr. Coverstone stated that the Charter School Application Committee recommends that the Board deny the charter school application for Thurgood Marshall School of Career Development.</p> <p><b>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to deny the charter school application for Thurgood Marshall School of Career Development. Mr. Hayes seconded.</b></p>	<b>VOTE: 9-0-Unanimous</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Recommendation for Explore Community School</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the charter application for Explore Community School. Mr. Coverstone stated the Charter School Application Committee recommends that the Board deny the charter school application for Explore Community School.</p> <p>Ms. Kim asked what is the appeal process? Mr. Coverstone said, the applicant has received the report and will have 30 days to reapply. The resubmission goes back to the Charter Review Committee. The committee has 30 days to review the application. The Charter Review Committee will then make recommendations to the Board at the end of August. Ms. Kim said East End Prep (also operated by the Martha O'Bryan Center) is a successful school in her district that is highly functioning.</p> <p><b>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to deny the charter school application for Explore Community School. Ms. Kim seconded.</b></p>	<b>VOTE: 9-0-Unanimous</b>


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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Recommendation for Rocketship</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the charter application for Rocketship. Mr. Coverstone stated the Charter School Application Committee recommends that the Board approve the charter school application for Rocketship.</p> <p><b>Mr. Hayes made the motion to approve the charter school application for Rocketship. Ms. Frogge seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0-Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Recommendation for Nashville Academy of Computer Science</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the charter application for Nashville Academy of Computer Science. Mr. Coverstone stated the Charter School Application Committee recommends that the Board approve the charter school application for Nashville Academy of Computer Science.</p> <p><b>Ms. Speering made the motion to approve the charter school application for Nashville Academy of Computer Science. Mr. Hayes seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0-Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Recommendation for KIPP College Prep Elementary</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the charter application for KIPP College Prep Elementary. Mr. Coverstone stated the Charter School Application Committee recommends that the Board approve the charter school application for KIPP College Prep Elementary.</p> <p><b>Mr. Pinkston made the motion to approve the charter school application for KIPP College Prep Elementary. Dr. Brannon seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0-Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Recommendation for Valor Collegiate</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone reviewed the charter application for Valor Collegiate. Mr. Coverstone stated the Charter School Application Committee recommends that the Board approve the charter school application for Valor Collegiate.</p> <p>Mr. Pinkston commended Mr. Dixon, the proposed leader of Valor Collegiate. “He has been very responsive to the community, and I appreciate the level of time and commitment spent to relate to the community. As a reminder to those who claim that MNPS is hostile to choice schools, this year, MNPS received \$14 million in new revenue for the 2013-2014 Operating Budget and every dime of that funding is going towards new and existing charter schools. This Board tonight approved three new charter schools which will bring the district’s overall portfolio to twenty-two schools if this fourth school is approved tonight. What support will the Charter School Incubator provide to this school? It is important for the Board to know upfront if the school will have the needed start-up support. Also, who will help this school find a suitable building to house their school?”</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Recommendation for Valor Collegiate - continued</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone said the Charter School Incubator has submitted a commitment letter for a formal contribution to the school. “I would not bring a school for approval that I had doubts about their facilities plan. I am not aware of the Incubator’s purpose or the support that will be provided to Valor Collegiate.” The district should be able to enter into arrangements that include capital improvements for MNPS buildings; solutions must be developed. Mr. Pinkston said he would like to see stronger support from the private sector to help charter schools find facilities.</p> <p><b>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to approve the charter school application for Valor Collegiate. Mr. Pinkston seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0-Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing Comments</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Register congratulated Mr. Coverstone for recently receiving his Doctorate from Vanderbilt. He also commended Mr. Coverstone and staff for their continued hard work during the charter process. He also congratulated the newly approved charter applicants. Ms. Shepherd thanked Mr. Coverstone and staff for their hard work. Ms. Frogge also thanked Mr. Coverstone and staff and also made the following comments: I voted for the schools I did because I believe they are good schools that will be assets to our district. But there is still a lot of work to do be done in the district, and my concerns also extend beyond individual charter schools in Nashville. If we are to continue to approve charter applications, we need to make some radical changes and develop a clear plan as to how we plan to pay for these new schools. Also, we need to develop a clear understanding of where our needs lie and a plan concerning what types of charter schools we would like to see and where we would like to open them. I would like to be more proactive in expressing needs as a district. I voted for these schools tonight because it seems arbitrary to penalize these particular applicants at this particular time, but I can’t in good conscience continue to approve more charter schools unless we come up with clear plans next year. And this raises a larger point, which is that our Board has been subjected to tremendous political pressure and political distractions since we came together last August. This has impacted our effectiveness as a Board and prevented us from delving into issues that would drive the most change in the district. We have spent most of my first year on the Board responding to charter school-related issues, which, thus far, have impacted only about 2,000 of our 81,000 students.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing Comments – continued</li> </ul>	<p>I believe good charters can complement our district efforts; it is important that we focus on all students. I am committed to changing our focus to broader, district-wide reforms over the upcoming months and to conducting a full review of our Board policies to find ways to improve our effectiveness as a Board and a district. Finally, if we have practices that are working in charter schools, by all means, let's find ways to share them. Implement good practices in all of our schools instead of opening more and more new schools; existing schools also need help. Let's build on what we have and support the efforts of teachers and administrators at those schools. Let's get those schools the resources they need, let's not forget community schools. Let's work collaboratively to repair what we have, to share best practices, and to drive continued and faster improvement in all MNPS schools.</p> <p>Ms. Speering made the following comments: It is important that we all work collaboratively, not competitively. Considering the whirlwind of activity over the last 12 months and to demonstrate our cooperative spirit with Metro Council and other Metro agencies, I am giving notice of a motion that I will bring to the July 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting: As a proactive measure in creating the 2014-2015 MNPS budget, I move that the Board request a comprehensive review of the current 2013-2014 budget as a joint venture between the Budget and Governance Board Committees. This review will allow for any modifications to ensure that our fiscal responsibilities and Policy Governance practices are aligned so that they compliment the mission, goals and objectives of MNPS.</p> <p>Ms. Mayes congratulated Dr. Gentry and Mr. Carr for their induction into the 2014 Leadership Nashville class. She also announced the Board Meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> and Work Session on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjournment</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Frogge adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signatures</li> </ul>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Chris M. Henson Board Secretary</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Cheryl D. Mayes Board Chair</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Date</p> </div> </div>	