

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
July 8, 2008

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call 	<p>Members Present: Marsha Hagan Warden, Chair; Ed Kindall, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; David A. Fox; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Mark North; Gracie Porter; George H. Thompson, III</p> <p>Members Absent: Sierra Scivally and Brittany McShand, Student Board Members</p> <p>Ms. Warden called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge of Allegiance 	Led by Mr. Vic Lineweaver, Juvenile Court Clerk.	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justine Gregory – Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum 	Ms. Gregory informed the Board of the many services offered to MNPS students by the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duane Dominy – Metro Council Resolution RS2008-320 	Councilman Dominy spoke to the Board concerning the Metro Council Resolution RS2008-320. He asked the Board to consider implementing a plan that would coincide with the Metro Council resolution recommending MNPS certificated administrators to work as substitutes in the schools in an effort to get a clear understanding of school climate.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ronnie Greer – Educational Environment in Schools 	Mr. Greer asked the Board to review current principals who may be displaying dictatorial disciplining techniques and reassign as necessary.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cesar Muedas – Glendale Spanish Immersion School 	Mr. Muedes, a Glendale Elementary parent, addressed the Board concerning the Glendale Spanish Immersion School. He expressed his support of the 2009-2010 Student Assignment Plan, and he looks forward to future improvements throughout the district.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marilyn Robinson – 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan 	Ms. Robinson, NAACP Nashville branch president, stated the NAACP was opposed to the 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan. She asked that the Board defer voting on the 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan for further study.	
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year End Status Report: MNPS Board Debriefing 	Dr. Smith provided background and current information on MNPS' No Child Left Behind district status. The State is currently collaboratively working with MNPS by providing state specialists such as the Exemplary Educators (EE's) and the System Targeted Assistance Team (STAT Initiative). The State has also assisted with the following: Audits; Analysis of Student Performance Data to improve Curriculum and Instruction; Require Data Driven Budget with Target for improvements; Reorganization of Central Office/Schools; and the Development of a Data Warehouse – Mayor Dean's Project for Student Success recommendation. Dr. Smith also presented the reorganization charts for the following departments: Division of Curriculum	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year End Status Report: MNSP Board Debriefing – continued 	<p>and Instruction and Federal Programs and Grants. Dr. Smith stated the State will be researching and evaluating the following areas in the near future: Special Education, Gifted programs, and Career and Technical Education.</p> <p>Ms. Warden asked Dr. Smith what was the procedure for informing the Board of the No Child Left Behind status? Dr. Smith stated that initially the Board was not provided complete information concerning the district’s status. But currently, with the collaboration of MNPS and the State, the Board is fully aware of the State’s changes to the district.</p>	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIONS Consent Agenda 	<p>Mr. Kindall made the motion to approve the following consent agenda items: V-A-2-a- Approval of Minutes –6/24/08 Regular Board Meeting; V-A-2-b – Recommended Award of Contract for Harpeth Valley Elementary School Renovation & Addition – Robert S. Biscan & Company – MBOE 07-034 (Control No. A-21892); V-A-2-c- Recommended Award of Contract for Paragon Mills Elementary School Renovation & Addition – Robert S. Biscan & Company – MOBE 07-040 (Control No. A-21891); V-2-A-d- Recommended Award of Contract for Una Elementary School Addition – Shankle-Lind, LLC – MBOE 07-028 (Control No. A-21930); V-2-A-e- Recommended Award of Contract for HVAC Middle School Gyms – Pkg. E-Phase 3 (Cameron, Rose Park, and J.T. Moore) – Bruce Adams Construction, Inc. – MBOE 07-030 (Control No. A-21931); V-2-A-f- Recommended Extension of Contract for District-Wide Roof Maintenance & Repairs – Maxwell Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. – M-382 (Control No. A-21932); V-A-2-g- Supplement #3 for Una Elementary School Addition – Street Dixon Rick Architecture – L-1939 (Control No. A-21865); V-A-2-h- Supplement #2 for Overton High School Cafeteria Expansion – Jack Freeman & Associates, L-1940 (Control No. A-219890); V-A-2-i- Change Order #3 for Cane Ridge High School – R.G. Anderson Company, Inc. – M-378 (Control No. A-21933); V-A-2-j- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development; V-A-2-k- Legal Settlement Claim – L-14075; V-A-2-l- Approval of E-2.7 – Academic Achievement – ELL; V-A-2-m- Approval of E-2.8 – Academic Achievement-Special Education; V-A-2-n- Approval of EE-9- Asset Protection. Mr. Glover seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: For–8-0 Unanimous (Ms. Johnson out of the room)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan 	<p>Mr. North stated since the initial presentation of the 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan (SAP) at the May 28, 2008 Board meeting, he has met with numerous stakeholder groups in the community on behalf of the SAP task</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan – continued 	<p>force concerning the proposed plan. The SAP task force also scheduled four public hearings to receive input from the community. After the public hearings, the task force reviewed the comments from the public and made revisions to the SAP. The Community Task Force on Student Assignment recommendations for 2009-10 are as follows: 1. Noncontiguous zones will become choice zones so student/parents in those area may choose to attend a school in a noncontiguous zone rather than the zone school – with transportation provided by MNPS. To assure efficiency, MNPS should study whether such transportation should be contingent on a minimum number of students making that choice. 2. Provide additional resources to schools in areas of highly concentrated poverty. Additional resources should include: incentive pay for teachers and staff; lower pupil/teacher ratio; higher ratio of social workers/ psychologists/guidance, etc.; and technology/computers. The task force recognizes that any differentiated pay would be subject to negotiations. 3. The budget process and documentation will include a separate budget account number and document to show the funding provided for the additional resources provided pursuant to these recommendations. This document will be a separate document within the budget (similar to the budget document for Opening Schools Plan, Account #2700), and thus will highlight the funding and require accountability. Moreover, listing the funding for these resources on a separate page will make any proposed changes conspicuous so as to prevent any future School Board or Metro Council from altering the funding unnoticed. 4. Communicate all student assignment choices in laymen’s terms, with various programs and options described completely so parents can make informed decisions about their child’s education. 5. Assign ELL and special education students at the same time as all other student assignments. 6. Monitor student assignment trends each year including analyses of housing trends, choice option trends, and programs at the schools and the effects of these factors on building utilization and enrollment. The Community Task Force on Student Assignment will be a standing task force that meets at least twice per school year to monitor all aspects of the student assignment plan, including enrollment trends, financial resources, choice options, demographics, and programs at the schools to constantly monitor and evaluate the impact of the student assignment plan. The standing task force will take the same form as the present task force with members appointed by each Board member, a member appointed by the Mayor, and a member appointed by the Director of Schools. The Chair of the School Board will appoint a member of the School Board to serve as the chair of the task force. 7. Monitor the total student enrollment with an eye toward</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan – continued 	<p>stated information for renovation costs and other Capital budget costs can be provided to the Board. Dr. Brannon asked if the Board could vote on individual clusters instead of voting on the 2009-10 Student Task Force recommendation as a complete document? Mr. North said the Board asked the SAP task force to develop a recommendation for the Board. The Board owes the task force a vote on the recommendation presented in honor of the diligence and hard work of the task force. Ms. Warden stated that the Board has been told by two Nashville Mayors that MNPS needs to effectively utilize school space. The Board has been researching the rezoning of the district since 2005, and the Board could not make a decision on the rezoning. In 2007, the Board commissioned a Student Assignment Task Force to research the district to develop a recommendation to be presented to the Board. Mr. Kindall stated that he believes the Board owes the community a plan that is meaningful, cost efficient and effectively utilizes school space. He noted that his proposal satisfies both utilization and academic concerns. He commended the SAP task force for their work.</p> <p>Dr. Brannon called the question on Mr. Kindall’s substitute motion to defer the vote on the Student Assignment Plan for two weeks for more discussion.</p> <p>Mr. Fox read a statement applauding his colleagues on the Board for initiating an intelligent process to address the rezoning challenges that have been left unresolved by the Board for several years. He also expressed profound thanks to the members of the Rezoning Committee who devoted an enormous amount of time and effort to help our students, and to Board member Mark North, who took on the challenge and provided exemplary leadership. He especially thanked Alene Arnold, his appointee from the Hillsboro cluster, for making such an enormous effort to help craft the best possible zoning solution. The Rezoning Committee, which includes appointees from each board member, has unanimously approved the rezoning plan. This diverse group committed nearly six months of work to fully understand the nuances of our community and the educational and economic ramifications of their proposal. The end result is a plan that will enable the school district to redirect more than \$4 million each year to supplement educational services for the benefit of students most in need. While middle class students and their families for years have enjoyed the benefits of attending nearby schools, this plan at last permits the same opportunity for thousands of Nashville’s at-risk students – children whose parents have been unable to visit their schools due</p>	<p>VOTE: No: (5)- North, Glover, Warden, Johnson, Fox; For-(4)- Brannon, Thompson, Porter, Kindall</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan – continued 	<p>to limited mobility, and children who have been mostly unable to participate in after-school activities for need of catching the bus after school. Resolving our zoning challenges tonight will be a nice accomplishment. But a far more important challenge for this Board of Education – and for the Tennessee Department of Education – is to educate to high levels all students – especially those with family situations inadequately supportive of education. Regardless of which school provides the instruction, Metro Nashville Schools must do much better at enabling at-risk children to achieve their potential. On that issue, I am more optimistic now than at any other time in my two-year Board tenure, for several reasons: Earlier this year, the School Board took decisive action to ensure someone with the necessary leadership and academic skills could be put in place to lead our system to higher performance. Also, the State Department of Education’s “shock therapy,” led by Dr. Connie Smith, appears to be laying a new foundation for educational achievement by all students as the undisputed highest objective of the district, while the district itself becomes better organized to accomplish that task. And with the guidance of Bill Attea, Nashville’s school board is positioned to recruit a superintendent who has demonstrated abilities to create a highly successful urban school system. Resolving zoning issues this evening, by adopting the recommendations of our Rezoning Task Force, will be an important step in lifting Metro Nashville Public Schools to a higher level of performance. We will be able to apply more of our limited financial resources to instruction, families can be more engaged with their children, and the Administration’s leadership team on the urgent academic mission of this system. Mr. Fox stated further that he supports the task force’s proposal and urges its approval.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson asked that the members of the Board who traveled to Miami, FL with the Chamber of Commerce voluntarily recuse themselves of voting on the Student Assignment Plan, due to conversations held between Board members and other constituents on the Miami trip. Ms. Johnson stated that she traveled to Miami with the Chamber of Commerce, and in no way did anyone lobby her regarding the Student Assignment Plan. When questioned concerning the SAP, she simply recommended that those persons attend the public hearing for more information. Ms. Johnson rejected the appeal for recusal. Ms. Warden asked Mr. Toni Cross, with Metro Legal, to give the Board a legal opinion of Board member recusal. Mr. Cross stated that the standard of recusal is whether or not an individual Board member is able to fully and honestly consider the business at hand, if the person can answer the</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan – continued 	<p>question in the affirmative, then they may opt to vote. Ms. Johnson said she believes the proposed SAP provides parents and students an opportunity for more school choice. The SAP task force worked very hard and made many hard decisions during the process of developing the proposed SAP. This is not a personal issue, this plan is an opportunity for the district to move forward and also align itself with the issues the Mayor has asked the Board to consider (underutilization of schools).</p> <p>Mr. Thompson made a substitute motion to accept the 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan with the exception of the Pearl-Cohn, Hillwood and Hillsboro clusters. Mr. Kindall seconded.</p> <p>Mr. Thompson said rezoning of the district has been a longstanding concern. He asked the Board to consider receiving assistance from the Joint Partnership of the Council of the Great City Schools and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund that will be funded and supported by the Ford Foundation. This partnership has agreed to assist MNPS in developing a Student Assignment Plan that addresses the factors that the Supreme Court addressed. The subject of underutilization of schools has been brought to the attention of the Board many times by several Nashville Mayors. The fact is that the district and the community decided to continue to function “under capacity” in order for the district to remain diverse. Dr. Brannon stated that choice is available in this plan and is very important, but the district must do whatever it has to so that those children currently in the Hillwood cluster can continue to do well, particularly in elementary. She stated that she doesn’t see the need in switching the kids back and forth. Mr. Kindall said choice is currently available to parents and students. The SAP tells students which school they should attend but does not give critical details to the transportation of students. The SAP task force has made a recommendation to the Board, and the Board should have an opportunity to discuss and make changes, if necessary, to the plan.</p> <p>Mr. Fox called the question on the substitute motion to accept the 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan with the exception of the Pearl-Cohn, Hillwood and Hillsboro clusters.</p>	<p>VOTE on the substitute motion: No: (5)- North, Glover, Warden, Johnson, Fox For-(4)- Brannon, Thompson, Porter, Kindall</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan – continued 	<p>Mr. Fox called the question on the main motion to approve the 2009-10 Student Assignment Plan Task Force recommendations as recommended by the Student Assignment Task Force.</p>	<p>VOTE on the main motion: For: (5)- North, Glover, Warden, Johnson, Fox No-(4)- Brannon, Thompson, Porter, Kindall</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break 	The Board took a break from 8:39 p.m. – 8:57 p.m.	
REPORTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Report – Recruitment of Bus Monitors for Special Education Buses 	<p>Dr. Keel stated that the school bus monitor positions have been posted on the MNPS website, in Human Resources and in many magazines and newspapers around the city. We are also working with Metropolitan Government and the State Department of Education’s Division of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. There were 575 letters sent out to MNPS Educational Assistants asking if they were interested in working as bus monitors. Currently, we have received 45 transfer applications and 109 new applications, and 34 of the new applications are currently undergoing a criminal background check. Mr. Henson stated that the minimum pay for bus monitors is \$10.46 per hour with a full benefit package.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Chairman’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symposium Committee 	<p>Mr. Glover announced that the State Department of Education and MNPS will hold a Symposium on Urban Best Practices on August 22. We have invited many Superintendents from around the state. The Symposium will be held at the Martin Professional Development Center. The Symposium committee consists of Mr. Glover, Ms. Porter and Mr. Fox.</p>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor’s Quarterly Meeting with the Board 	<p>Ms. Warden announced the Mayor’s Quarterly Meeting with the Board will be held August 1 at 10:00 a.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Madison Community Breakfast 	<p>Mr. North announced that the Annual Madison Community Breakfast will be held July 17 at 7:00 a.m. at the Amqui Station train depot. This breakfast will be free, and Mayor Dean will be the speaker.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennessee Early Childhood Pre-K Conference 	<p>Ms. Porter announced that she attended the Tennessee Early Childhood Pre-K conference and would be reporting to the Board on the conference at the next Board meeting.</p>	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Calendar Items 		
ADJOURNMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjournment 	<p>Mr. Fox made the motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatures 		

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	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 100px;"> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 45%; text-align: center;">Chris M. Henson Board Secretary</div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 45%; text-align: center;">Marsha Hagan Warden Date Board Chair</div> </div>	