

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
July 24, 2007

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call 	<p>Members Present: Marsha Hagan Warden, Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; David A. Fox; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Mark North; Gracie Porter; George H. Thompson III</p> <p>Member Absent: Ed Kindall, Vice-Chair</p> <p>Ms. Warden called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge of Allegiance 	Led by Ben Wright, Chief Administrative Officer.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Wright – Chief Administrative Officer 	Mr. Henson introduced Ben Wright as the new Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Wright is responsible for all school Administrative Services and is the supervisor for the six new Area Directors.	
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AED Presentation – Mary Jane Thompson and West End Middle 	Ms. Mary Jane Thompson donated an AED to West End Middle School in honor of her late husband, Mr. David Thompson. Mr. Gregory Hutchings, principal of West End Middle School, was present to receive the AED.	
LINKAGE SESSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith-Based Community Representatives 	<p>The Board met with the following to discuss ways to improve MNPS: Rev. Victor Singletary, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Capitol Hill; Rev. Sonnye Dixon, Pastor of Hobson United Methodist Church; Rev. Enoch Fuzz, Pastor of Corinthian Baptist Church; and Rev. Bill Cook, Vice-President of Operation Andrew. Each faith-based representative voiced his opinions and district concerns. Mr. Singletary stated that he hoped supplemental funding would be given to the district from the council to help implement ideas from the new Strategic Plan. He also expressed concerns on recruiting African-American male teachers, moving the centralized hiring process of teachers from May to January, and providing transportation to Magnet Schools. Rev. Dixon stated that the line of communication between the district and faith-based communities is very important. He hopes that the new Area Directors will schedule meetings with members of the community in order to create partnerships. Rev. Fuzz stated that everyone should work together to solve problems in the district. He said the Strategic Plan process was well-implemented and diverse in leadership. However, students are not being prepared for college courses, Customer Service Center needs to be improved, as well as parent/staff involvement. He would like MNPS to reflect Nashville's reputation as the Athens of the South. Mr. Cook stated that he is willing to work with MNPS and be pro-active in improving public education for students. Mr. Glover stated that he understands that we have centralized the district's hiring</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith-Based Community Representatives - continued 	<p>process. He stated that principals are required by state law to have more control in schools, therefore, principals are allowed to have more input in the hiring of teachers. Concerning hiring in January instead of May, the budget process prevents us from hiring earlier in the year. Ms. Warden asked the faith-based representatives, how can we work together to encourage children to obtain the math competencies and skills needed to be successful, and let parents know that those skills will open up opportunities for students? Mr. Dixon stated that churches need to be educated on the skills children need to be successful, so that these issues can be incorporated into sermons. Ms. Johnson stated that we must provide additional learning support services for students. She suggested that a funding source be established to help assist students with additional tutoring or training expenses. Mr. Dixon said he tells all students that he can help them to go to college. There are churches in the black community that are willing to help, but MNPS must let the community and churches know where, when, and what type of help is needed. Mr. Thompson challenged the faith-based representatives to inspire youth in their churches to be great leaders in the community and the world. Help MNPS to promote education and interest in success, in order to get our youth fired up about being proficient in many areas. Ms. Porter stated that she would like to see faith-based representatives visit their youth members' schools and classrooms to encourage and check on the students. She stated that she believes this effort would greatly impact church involvement in the district. Additionally, it would provide an opportunity to encourage and tell teachers and principals how much they are appreciated. Ms. Warden thanked the faith-based representatives for participating in the linkage session and stated that she looks forward to working with them to help students have successful lives.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Policy Governance policies 	<p>Mr. Glover motioned to move the review of all Policy Governance policies and procedures to the Policy Governance committee for review. Ms. Porter seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: For–Unanimous (8-0)</p>
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
<p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent Agenda 	<p>Mr. Glover asked that item IV-A-2-p – Awarding and Bids of Contracts (2.) Dr. Robert Probst, (3.) Dr. Kylene Beers be pulled from the agenda. Ms. Porter seconded.</p> <p>Mr. Glover requested the Board be provided with a report of all areas of Professional Development including dollars spent in the areas of math, reading, social studies, science, technology and others. He stated that he would also like further explanation on the evaluation component of items IV-A-2-p – Awarding and Bids of Contracts (2.) Dr. Robert Probst, and (3.) Dr. Kylene Beers.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Agenda continued 	<p>Mr. Glover read the following consent agenda items: IV-A-2-a – Approval of Minutes- 6/29/07 Regular Meeting; and 7/10/07 Regular Meeting; IV-A-2-b- Recommended Award of Contract for Porter Roofing Contractors, Inc. – Roof Replacement at Neely’s Bend Elementary School, M-07-020 (Control No. A-20401); IV-A-2-c – Recommended Award of Contract for Porter Roofing Contractors, Inc. – Roof Replacement at Julia Green Elementary School, M-07-019 (Control No. A-20400); IV-A-2-d- Recommended Award of Contract for Maxwell Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. – District Wide Roof Maintenance & Repairs – RFP# SPC 2007-05 (Control No. A-20445); IV-A-2-e- Recommended Extension of Contract for Larry Woods & Associates – Miscellaneous Small & Renovation Projects, M-03-048 (Control No. A-20435); IV-A-2-f- Recommended Extension of Contract for Facilities Design Group, Inc., Miscellaneous Small & Renovation Projects, M-03-050 (Control No. A-20434); IV-A-2-g- Recommended Extension of Contract for Ross Bryan Associates, Inc., Miscellaneous Small & Renovation Projects, M-03-056 (Control No. A-20434); IV-A-2-h- Recommended Extension of Contract for Puckett Engineering, Miscellaneous Small & Renovation Projects, M-03-055 (Control No. A-2043); IV-A-2-i- Recommended Extension of Contract for SSOE, Inc., Miscellaneous Small & Renovation Projects, M-03-055 (Control No. A-2043); IV-A-2-j- Recommended Extension of Contract for Lose & Associates, Inc., Landscape Architecture Services, 2003, M-03-046 (Control No. A-204739); IV-A-2-k- Recommended Extension of Contract for Volunteer Surveying, Land Surveying Services, 2003, M-03-045 (Control Nos. A-20440); IV-A-2-l- Recommended Extension of Contract for Cherry Land Surveying, Inc., Land Surveying Services, 2003, M-03-042 (Control No. A-20441); IV-A-2-m- Recommended Extension of Contract for Thornton & Associates, Inc., Land Surveying Services, 2003, M-03-044 (Control No. A-20442); IV-A-2-n- Recommended for Approval – Architectural Firms for year 2007-2008, (Control No. A-20444); IV-A-2-o- Change Order #1 for Indoor PE Rooms Package E (Norman Binkley, Ross Elementary and Lillard Elementary at King’s Lane) – Bomar Construction, M-366, (Control No. A-20443); IV-A-2-p- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, (4.) Tennessee Department of Education, (5.) The Gallup Organization. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: For–Unanimous (8-0)</p>
BOARD DEVELOPMENT		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career and Technical Education – Starr Herrman and Donna Gilley 	<p>Ms. Herrman presented to the Board a Power Point presentation and a timeline on Career and Technical Education (CTE). CTE is aligned with No Child Left Behind, and its quality indicators are as follows: the teacher is certified to teach the program, the teacher is using the current state approved curriculum, the program has an active advisory committee, the program has an active, affiliated CTSO, the program has an active articulation agreement, the program is supported by Labor Market data, the program is of size and scope for students to concentrate. The Career and Technical Education vision is that all students will be equipped with 21st century skills.</p> <p>Ms. Warden asked Ms. Herrman if she foresees a need for seven-period school days in the near future. Ms Herrman said, yes, there is a need and there are several options available such as seven-period days, block scheduling, etc. Mr. Thompson asked if the Board can assist with offering courses such as cosmetology, auto-mechanics, etc. Ms. Herrman said that we could provide students with the option of taking online courses, use of software such as PLATO, as well as look at different ways funds are spent. But, in order for these things to happen, Career and Technical Education will need more staff. Ms. Warden stated that Nashville is in the center of the healthcare industry, but we only offer two Health/Science programs. We must look at our market needs to give students a chance to work in our community in available positions as they move forward. Ms. Porter asked the Board to immediately begin considering a Comprehensive Career Technical high school. In the near future, we should begin lobbying our council persons for funds required to build a Comprehensive Career Technical high school. Our community and the technological industry are growing; therefore, there will be a need for a building to provide these courses. If parents are given a choice for students to go to a Comprehensive Career Technical high school, more children will move into our district and go to our schools. Mr. Thompson agreed. Ms. Johnson asked about the timeline of the students taking the career interest surveys and whether the results would be shared with parents. Ms. Herrman stated that 9th grade students took the test last year and hopes to give the tests more often in different ways in the future. Meetings will be set up with parents to view the results. Mr. Thompson stated at one time the Board was seriously considering building a Technology high school and referred to Mr. Lott on the status of the idea. Mr. Lott stated that a committee was formed a few years ago to research the project, but there was a Board vote to stop the process. Mr. Thompson stated that he believed the Board is ready to move now. Ms. Porter agreed.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard School Attire Policy – Sandy Tinnon and Ben Wright 	<p>Ms. Tinnon, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Thompson each presented different aspects of Standard School Attire. Ms. Tinnon reported to the Board on the extensive preparation underway for a smooth transition to the revised personal appearance and student dress policy. Ms. Tinnon gave a brief history of Standard School Attire (SSA). Dr. Garcia formed an exploratory committee in May 2006, and the committee consisted of seven principals, Dr. Monica Dillard, Dr. Tonya Hutchinson, Dr. Margaret Bess, Dr. Lora Hall, Ms. Karen Lefkovitz, Dr. Sarah Moore and Mr. Ronald Powe. One parent and student were added to the committee after the 2006-2007 school year. The committee conducted extensive research on the topic of school uniforms and looked for first-hand information on legal opinions, academic impact and sought out neighboring school districts for input on Standard School Attire. The committee presented four presentations on Standard School Attire to the Board. During the entire process the SSA committee looked to the community for input by holding public forums. In addition, the district utilized the call-home system to survey parents and staff. The majority of the 18,000 respondents voted for SSA. All MNPS principals were surveyed, and the majority voted in favor of SSA. The Board voted to approve SSA on April 10, and the administration immediately began work on an implementation plan. Mr. Wright stated that stores in Nashville have assured the administration that there is more than enough available SSA clothing for students. Various organizations have donated gift certificates and offered SSA clothing at discounted prices. Each school has a clothing closet for children who do not wear SSA to school. The students will have an opportunity to use or purchase the clothing from the closet. He stated that there has been an informational meeting scheduled at Glencliff High School on August 4 for Spanish-speaking students and parents. Principals and assistant principals have attended meetings concerning SSA expectations. Mr. Thompson stated that students are expected to be dressed in SSA on the first day of school, and there is no reason that any child should be suspended for wearing SSA. The Standard School Attire Discipline Protocol for 2007-2008 is as follows: First Day of School – a letter will be given to all students out of compliance. The remainder of the Semester – First Offense: All students will be given a chance to correct. If the student chooses not to comply, he/she will be sent to in-school suspension and a letter will be given to the student to give to his/her parent/guardian. On the Second Offense: Student will be given one day of in-school suspension and a letter will be given to the student to give to his/her parent/guardian. Third Offense: Student will be given one day of in-school suspension, provisional one-day out-of-school suspension (this OSS is waived if the parent/guardian arrives with the student the next morning for a conference – and if the</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard School Attire Policy - continued 	<p>student is in SSA.) A letter will be sent home with the student to the parent/guardian. Mr. Thompson stated that the goal is to balance compassion with expectation that students will come to school dressed for academic success and ready to learn on every school day.</p> <p>Mr. Glover stated that he would like to propose that the Administration assign one individual for the Board to contact for information on Standard School Attire on the first day of implementation. Mr. North asked about the availability of the medical exemption forms. Mr. Wright stated that the forms would be available July 30. The forms will not be available online, but parents may pick up the forms from all school principals and the customer service center. Mr. Henson asked about the form's online availability. Mr. Wright stated that the decision was made to not put the forms online for various reasons, but primarily because the administration believed principals should have a conversation with the parent concerning student medical exemptions. Ms. Warden thanked Metro Legal for the Standard School Attire Legal Opinion and the Standard School Attire Memorandum, and she asked Metro Legal to describe the difference between the two documents. Metro Legal stated the Memorandum was the initial interpretation of the policy, and the Formal Legal Opinion is intended more as a guide for the Board, parents and students, to fully understand why it is believed that that the policy is constitutional.</p>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Annual Mayor's First Day Festival 	Ms. Warden announced that the 8 th Annual Mayor's First Day Festival will be held Sunday, August 12, 2007 from 2:00-5:00 pm at the Sommet Center. This event is free to the community.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Park Community Center 	Ms. Porter invited the Board and the community to the new East Park Community Center located in East Nashville. The Center offers many amenities including an indoor track, indoor pool, and basketball court. The Center is open 6:00 am – 8:00 pm Monday – Friday and Saturday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales Tax Holiday 	Ms. Johnson announced on behalf of State Representatives Ben West and Janice Sontany that August 3-5 will be Sales Tax Free Weekend.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with State Representative Brenda Gilmore 	Ms. Johnson asked the Board to begin considering dates available in August to meet with State Representative Brenda Gilmore on her state legislation concerning Career and Technical Education.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Governance 	Mr. Glover reminded the Board that the Governance Committee would be meeting Friday, July 27, at 5:00 pm. Mr. Glover asked the Board to bring any concerns on monitoring reports that may not be meeting the Board's goals to the meeting.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Graduation 	Ms. Warden announced that Summer School graduation will be held July 26 at McGavock High School at 6:00 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Teacher Orientation 	Ms. Warden announced that New Teacher Orientation is being held at Trevecca Nazarene University July 24-26.	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Calendar Items 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales Tax Collections as of 7/20/07 		
ADJOURNMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debriefing/Adjournment 	Mr. Fox made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Porter seconded.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatures 	<p>_____</p> <p>Chris M. Henson Board Secretary</p>	<p>_____ Date</p> <p>Marsha Hagan Warden Board Chair</p>