

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Minutes  
September 10, 2013

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call</li> </ul>	<p>Present: Cheryl D. Mayes, Chair Anna Shepherd, Vice-Chair Dr. Jo Ann Brannon Amy Frogge Michael W. Hayes Elissa Kim Will Pinkston Jill Speering Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools Marquetta Bowling, Student Board Member Akaninyene Eyoh, Student Board Member</p> <p>Absent: Dr. Sharon Gentry</p> <p>Ms. Mayes called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge of Allegiance</li> </ul>	Led by Ms. Bowling, Student Board Member	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Mayes Comments</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Mayes made the following comments: Recently there has been much debate about this Board of Education, indicating that we are not concerned about the academic achievement and success of the students enrolled in charter schools in our school district. I believe my colleague, Mr. Pinkston, stated it best when he wrote in a recent article, “The debate isn’t about the merits of charter schools. It’s about funding adequacy, and equity for all schools.” It is unfortunate that this Board of Education is being unfairly targeted for performing the duties to which we were duly elected and sworn to uphold. It is also unfortunate that more credibility is being given to contrived propaganda rather than actual facts such as the following: The current enrollment for students in Metro Nashville Public Schools is nearly 83,000. Included in this number are students enrolled in traditional public schools, magnet schools, specialty schools and, yes, charter schools; The “<i>Us versus Them</i>” mentality was not created by, nor does it exist within, the Board of Education; The National Association of Charter School Authorizers has acknowledged MNPS as one of the highest performing districts with respect to charter authorization and oversight; Since 2009, the Board of Education has not only approved, but supported, 16 charter schools currently operating in our district as well as 6 additional charter schools recently approved; 25% of students enrolled in MNPS are enrolled in charters or other optional schools within our district; The district is proposing a five-year strategic plan with an aggressive goal of</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Mayes Comments – continued</li> </ul>	<p>raising the achievement levels of 100% of our students by 2018. 100% is inclusive of all students in our district. The fact is that MNPS is facing a \$24 million shortfall in the 2014-15 school year; therefore, our school district, and this Board of Education, will be faced with making very difficult budgetary decisions in the coming months. During the Budget &amp; Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Pinkston laid out some real concerns related to next year’s budget, as well as painting a very realistic picture of the potential budgetary concerns as we move forward, unless we take control of this situation now. This district cannot afford to continue approving charters on an ad hoc basis without addressing the long term affects on all of the students we serve. There have been many who claim to hold educating our children as the most important and critical task at hand, yet some of the same individuals have been instrumental in doing as much as possible to impede the progress of MNPS, and other school districts, in doing just that unless they become the drivers of change. Let me be very clear on what our mission is: Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools will provide every student with the foundation of knowledge, skills and character necessary to excel in higher education, work and life. We embrace and value a diverse student population and community. Different perspectives and backgrounds form the cornerstone of our strong public education system. This Board of Education believes in, stands by, and took an oath of office to support this mission and we will continue to do just that.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Frogge Comments</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Frogge made the following comments: I would like to address some of the coverage that the Board has received in the last weeks. There have been allegations that the Board has been conducting secret meetings. I would like to address that allegation; this Board has done nothing improper. The Board has not attempted to hide any meetings and have tried to have monthly luncheons with Dr. Register. The luncheons have been casual; those have been publicly announced and are open to the public. At the luncheon there is never deliberation on Board matters. It is very important that the Board takes transparency seriously, which we do.</p>	
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hands on Nashville</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Frogge announced Hands on Nashville Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers can register at <a href="http://www.hon.org">www.hon.org</a>.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YMCA Reading Clinics</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Frogge announced that the YMCA is offering free reading clinics for children 6-18. For more information contact the YMCA.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academy Model Presentation</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Shepherd thanked Dr. Steele for introducing the Academy model at DuPont Hadley Middle’s Chamber Luncheon.</p>	

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• Taste of the Town	Ms. Shepherd announced that the Taste of the Town was held at DuPont Hadley Middle School on September 5 <sup>th</sup> . Proceeds from the event go to Metro Schools located in Old Hickory, TN.	
• Fall Fest	Ms. Shepherd announced the Fall Fest to be held October 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> at Hermitage Elementary.	
• Pennington Elementary	Ms. Shepherd announced that she would be at Pennington Elementary on September 11 <sup>th</sup> for the kick-off of the Pennington Pride Bullying Program.	
• First Choice Festival	Ms. Shepherd announced the First Choice Festival will be September 23 <sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.	
• Buffalo Festival	Ms. Speering announced that she attended the Buffalo Festival on September 7 <sup>th</sup> .	
• Pre-K Committee	Dr. Brannon announced that she has been asked to serve on the Pre-K Committee.	
<b>AWARDS AND RECONGITIONS</b>		
• 2012 Career Fair Winner	Mr. Marc Hill of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce presented the 2012 Career Fair Winner to the Board and announced the 2013 Career Fair will be held on October 30 <sup>th</sup> .	
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>		
• Charlotte Ellerby – School Entrance and Contract	Ms. Ellerby asked the Board to research the issue concerning her son remaining at his current school.	
• Carl B. Frankel – 2014-2015 Calendar	Mr. Frankel addressed the Board concerning the 2014-2015 Calendar. He asked the Board to vote for the Balanced Calendar.	
• Adam Taylor – Twitter Access	Mr. Taylor addressed the Board concerning Twitter access for MNPS. He asked the Board to continue to work to provide Twitter access to all MNPS employees.	
• Ronald Reed – Transportation Department Savings and Service	Mr. Reed addressed the Board concerning the Transportation Department Savings and Service. He asked for the Board to read a report he presented concerning savings in the department.	
• Elisa Fox – Free and Appropriate Education	Ms. Fox addressed the Board concerning Free and Appropriate Education. She asked the Board to research her concerns.	
<b>GOVERNANCE ISSUES</b>		
1. Election of School Board Officers	<b>Ms. Shepherd nominated Ms. Mayes as Board Chair. Dr. Brannon seconded.</b> Ms. Mayes thanked the Board for electing her to serve another year as Board Chair.	<b>VOTE: Unanimous 8-0</b>

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1. Election of School Board Officers - continued	<p><b>Ms. Mayes nominated Ms. Shepherd as Vice-Board Chair. Dr. Brannon seconded.</b></p> <p>Ms. Shepherd thanked the Board for electing her to serve another year as Vice-Board Chair.</p>	<b>VOTE: Unanimous 8-0</b>
2. Consent	<p>Ms. Shepherd read the following consent agenda: V-A-2-a- Approval of Minutes-8/13/13 Regular Meeting; V-A-2-b- Recommended Award of Contract for Roof Replacement of Sections A &amp; B at Bellshire Elementary School – Roofing Services and Solutions, Inc. – MBOE 800135.13.1R; V-A-2-c- Change Order #1 for Football Field Lighting Package #4 at Antioch, Hillwood, and Pearl-Cohn High Schools – Knight Electric – MBOE 13-009; V-A-2-d- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Aspex Solutions, Inc., (2.) Beamon Automotive, (3.) Claim Technologies Incorporated, (4.) Curriculum Associates, (5.) Equipment Finders, Inc., (6.) Georgia State University, (7.) JJ &amp; ZAK LLC, (8.) Lipscomb University, (9.) Mid-South Bus Center, (10.) Mid-South Bus Center; V-A-2-e- Recommended Approval of Request for Compulsory Attendance Waiver; V-A-2-f- Energy Efficient Schools Initiative Grant Acceptance; V-A-2-g- Recommended Approval of 2013-2014 Extended Learning Contract; V-A-2-h- Recommended Approval of Special Textbook Adoption: Aquaculture/Hydroponics and Criminal Justice; V-A-2-i- Recommended Approval of Legal Settlement Claim C-30326 - \$11,400.</p> <p><b>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Brannon seconded.</b></p>	<b>VOTE: Unanimous 8-0</b>
3. Recommended Approval of 2014-2015 District Calendar	<p>Dr. Register said I still support my initial recommendation of a balanced calendar, but I do realize there are very mixed opinions on the subject in our community and staff. Therefore, an additional calendar option has been developed that incorporates features of the balanced calendar. It is important to remain consistent in the calendar options so that expectations are set beyond one year. Dr. Register reviewed the differences of the proposed calendar options.</p> <p>Ms. Bowling made the following comments on the calendar options: After discussing the proposed calendar options with my fellow classmates, we developed the following ideas: Start school later in August and ending school in early May in order to create a longer summer. It would also give students more time to participate in Summer programs. Mr. Eyoh made the following</p>	

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<p>3. Recommended Approval of 2014-2015 District Calendar - continued</p>	<p>comments: I would choose the Intersession calendar option. I believe the option of the longer Fall and Spring breaks with Intersession provides time for students who may need additional assistance. Students at MLK thought the focus should be placed on repairing MLK and not on adding days to the school calendar. Other students supported the Intersession calendar to give more students time to study for AP testing in the Spring. Ms. Speering said the compromise calendar is a good option for both sides. Dr. Register said that has been a challenge due to the lack of the Supplemental Education Services that were cut about two years ago from the Federal Budget. Some funds will be dedicated to Intersession this year, but less than the desired amount. It is disappointing to have lost that Supplemental Education Services funding, but community organizations such as the YMCA have been stepping in to help provide needed services. Ms. Frogge asked if we moved to the three day Intersession, would the District have a better chance at funding? Dr. Register said, yes. Mr. Pinkston said I am not inclined to go in a different direction just for the sake of making a change. If there was a clear reason to change, I would be open if students would be affected in a positive academic way. I am inclined to stay the course. I believe the community becomes frustrated when things up and change. Unless new information is presented, I vote to stay with the balanced calendar.</p> <p>Ms. Shepherd said I have received much feedback on the Balanced Calendar. I have received reports on children having to stay home alone due to the lack of transportation to Intersession. Also, complaints on Intersession not being well attended. I believe the compromise calendar is the best option. Mr. Hayes asked if the calendars are budget neutral? Dr. Register said yes. Dr. Brannon asked will the calendar options affect the nine-week grading period? Dr. Register said no. Dr. Brannon said the compromise option should appeal to parents and I am in support of that calendar option. Ms. Frogge asked will the calendar that is adopted tonight be sustained for three years? Dr. Register said my recommendation is to adopt the calendar of your choice, and the funding principles that are associated with the calendar, so that guidelines are set for moving forward.</p> <p>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to adopt the compromised calendar and the guiding principles. Dr. Brannon seconded.</p>	<p><b>VOTE: 7 yes -1-no- (Pinkston)</b></p>

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3. Recommended Approval of Education 2018 (Strategic Plan)	<p>Dr. Register reviewed the Recommended Approval of Education 2018 (Strategic Plan) with the Board.</p> <p>Ms. Frogge asked if the Strategic Plan was a working document? Dr. Register said yes. The Board will receive quarterly updates on the progress, also modifications are being made to the Director’s Evaluation so that it is directly tied to the Strategic Plan and goals. Ms. Speering stated that she is excited about the plan. Is it possible to include a focus on the “how” in those reports? Dr. Register said, yes, it is an electronic document that will allow great detail to be discovered. I commend the Administration for this hard work. Dr. Brannon asked does the plan align with the state’s requests? Dr. Register said, yes, we are meeting and discussing the plan with the state. The goal is to have one plan. Ms. Kim asked if personalized learning would development into a lot of paperwork? I have heard similar fears around the district. Dr. Register said over the last few months we have held general sessions with principals, and we are just beginning to have this discussion around personalized learning around the district. We are still working with principals to equip them with the information needed to properly engage staff.</p> <p><b>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to approve the Education 2018 Strategic Plan. Dr. Brannon seconded.</b></p>	<b>VOTE: Unanimous 8-0</b>
Director’s Report 1. Grading Policy	<p>Dr. Steele and staff reviewed the Grading Policy with the Board.</p> <p>Ms. Frogge asked is this being implemented in other districts? Does it allow students to gain the system and penalize students who are prepared? Could not giving students zeros for undone homework have a negative effect? Could you address public perception? Dr. Steele said principals rolled out this initiative during pre-planning time, and two weeks later teachers received a technical assistance paper stating that information about the pilot-program. This program came from principals and was not a top-down initiative. The overall idea is that from the changes all students will learn and excel.</p>	
2. MLK Pathway	<p>Dr. Register presented a proposed change to the MLK Pathway to the Board.</p> <p>Ms. Shepherd asked why are students leaving a 5-8 middle school to attend a 7-12 school? Wouldn’t students rather have the 5-8 middle school experience? Mr. Weber said, currently Rose Park students have to complete</p>	

