

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools  
Board of Education  
January 27, 2009

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll Call</li> </ul>	<p>Members Present: David A. Fox, Chair; Gracie Porter, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; Alan Coverstone; Dr. Sharon Gentry; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Mark North; Sierra Scivally and Brittany McShand, Student Board Members</p> <p>Member Absent: Ed Kindall</p> <p>Mr. Fox 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 Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director of the Tennessee State Board of Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Board Member Report</li> </ul>	Ms. Scivally and Ms. McShand recognized the commitment and diligence of the Board members in honor of School Board Week. Ms. Scivally also announced that the Director's Student Advisory Council is accepting letters of interest for the 2009-10 Student School Board Member positions. Letters of interest must be completed and submitted to Ms. Davis, MNPS Coordinator of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, by March 2009.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Showcase – Hillsboro High School Human Geography Students</li> </ul>	The Hillsboro High School Human Geography students presented school projects that provided detailed reporting and resolutions for current international conflicts.	
<b>AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLK Cross Country State Championship Team</li> </ul>	Mr. Fox and Dr. Register presented the MLK Cross Country Team with an Award of Recognition for winning the State Championship.	
<b>GOVERNANCE ISSUES</b>		
<p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consent Agenda</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Glover asked that Consent Agenda item III-A-2-e- Awarding of Bids and Contracts, (3.) Beacon Technologies be pulled until later notice.</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Porter read the following consent agenda items: III-A-2-a- Approval of Minutes – 12/20/08 and 1/6/09 Special Meetings; 1/13/09 Regular Meeting; III-A-2-b- Recommended Extension of Contract for Testing &amp; Balancing – United Testing and Balancing, Inc. – L-1514 Control No.; III-A-2-c- Change Order #2 for ADA Improvements Pkg. “K” at Various Schools – Shankle-Lind, LLC – M-387; III-A-2-d- Change Order #5 for Construction Services for New High School-Antioch Cluster (Cane Ridge Comprehensive High School) – R.G. Anderson Co., Inc. M-378; III-A-2-e- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Educate Online, Inc., (2.) AlphaBEST Education, Inc; III-A-2-f- Request for Textbook Approval – Electrical Level I and Electrical Level II. Mr. Glover moved to adopt. Ms. Johnson seconded.</b></p>	<b>VOTE: 8-0-Unanimous</b>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="128 285 583 407">• Memorandum of Understanding between Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation and the Metropolitan Board of Education</li>   <li data-bbox="128 773 583 862">• CLASS Resolution on Making End of Course Assessments High Stakes Tests</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="604 285 1539 586">Mr. Glover asked for details concerning transporting the students to the Metro Parks site. Would this “pilot” program be something that would be implemented in other clusters in the future? Mr. Phillips stated that there are about 30 students who will be utilizing the after-school program at the Coleman Community Center site and transportation will be provided. Mr. Widman said the ability to expand the program will be based on available transportation, as well as principal and parental consent in other clusters. Dr. Register stated he believed that the Metro Parks after-school program will be very beneficial to the students and recommends that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation and the Metropolitan Board of Education.</p> <p data-bbox="604 618 1539 708"><b>Ms. Johnson made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation and the Metropolitan Board of Education. Mr. Glover seconded.</b></p> <p data-bbox="604 773 1539 829"><b>Ms. Johnson made the motion to adopt the CLASS Resolution on Making End of Course Assessments High Stakes Tests. Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p> <p data-bbox="604 862 1539 919">Dr. Register made a recommendation to the Board to deny approval of the CLASS resolution on Making End of Course Assessments High Stake Tests.</p> <p data-bbox="604 951 1539 1195">Dr. Gary Nixon spoke to the Board concerning the CLASS Resolution on Making End of Course Assessment High Stakes Tests. He informed the Board of initiatives that the state is implementing that will benefit students in MNPS and may not coincide with the resolution. Mr. Glover thanked Dr. Nixon for the hard work at the State Board of Education office. Mr. Glover believes the initiatives will take MNPS in the right direction. Ms. Porter thanked Dr. Nixon and staff for considering what should be done in Tennessee concerning education and implementing the needed changes. Ms. Johnson thanked Dr. Nixon and Dr. Register for their leadership.</p> <p data-bbox="604 1227 1003 1252"><b>Ms. Johnson withdrew her motion.</b></p> <p data-bbox="604 1292 1539 1406"><b>Ms. Johnson moved for denial of the CLASS Resolution on Making End of Course Assessments High Stakes Tests due to possible adverse effects on graduation rate gains and per the recommendation of the Director of Schools. Mr. Coverstone seconded.</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1560 675 1818 699"><b>VOTE: 8-0-Unanimous</b></p> <p data-bbox="1560 1382 1818 1406"><b>VOTE: 8-0-Unanimous</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLASS Resolution on Making End of Course Assessments High Stakes Tests - continued</li> </ul>	<p>A RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION ENCOURAGING THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUIRE STUDENTS TO PASS A CORE SET OF END OF COURSE ASSESSMENTS IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the State of Tennessee has boldly embraced a path to higher academic standards in K-12 public education through the Tennessee Diploma Project; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the Tennessee Board of Education has approved, as part of this transition, the elimination of Gateway Examinations, which were a “high stakes” requirement for graduation from high school, and has approved replacing the Gateways with a series of End of Course (EOC) assessments; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the End of Course assessments will count as 25% of a student’s course grade, and the Tennessee Board of Education intends to conduct statistical analysis to determine whether students’ course grades and EOC scores are within a reasonable range of each other, <u>but</u> passing any particular EOC, or any combination of EOCs, will <u>not</u> be a requirement for high school graduation; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the EOCs will still be the assessment of record for the purposes of compliance and accountability for the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, under this arrangement the End Of Course exams will essentially become a “high stakes” assessment for schools and school districts, but not for students, creating an undesirable and inadequate accountability structure for student achievement; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, higher standards are less meaningful when they are not measured rigorously and tied to student accountability; and</p> <p><b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education encourages the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee Board of Education to require students to pass a core set of End of Course assessments, (or an appropriate weighted sum of EOCs) in order to graduate from high school, so as to ensure that the high standards Tennessee has rightfully adopted are achieved.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT</b> the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education applauds the General Assembly, the Tennessee Board of Education and the Governor for embracing more rigorous academic standards in K-12 public education in Tennessee.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLASS Resolution on School Calendar Decisions Remaining the Responsibilities of LEA’s</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Glover made the motion to accept the CLASS Resolution on School Calendar Decisions Remaining the Responsibilities of LEA’s. Ms. Johnson seconded</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 7-0- Unanimous (Ms. Porter out of the room)</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLASS Resolution on School Calendar Decisions Remaining the Responsibilities of LEA's –continued</li> </ul>	<p>A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUESTING THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO LEAVE ALL SCHOOL CALENDAR DECISIONS UNDER CONTROL OF LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education is elected by the people to manage and control the public schools in Davidson County; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, all across the State of Tennessee local communities choose their school board members to control the local educational agency; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education understands that the local school calendar can have an impact on many aspects of our community; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, such impact is felt by many stakeholders including families, the tourism industry and other local businesses; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the largest impact is felt by the most important stakeholders in public education: the students; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a school calendar which is set by the local education agency can offer high school students optimal opportunity to access higher education opportunities for college preparation and job readiness training by coordinating calendars with local universities and community colleges; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a school calendar which is set by the local education agency can be planned to allow high students to participate in end of course and other high stakes testing in December, prior to winter break, regardless of whether the schools follow a traditional or block schedule; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a school calendar which is set by the local education agency can be planned to give the highest achieving students the greatest amount of instruction prior to taking Advanced Placement tests; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a school calendar which is set by the local education agency allows locally elected officials to address the specific needs of their students and their communities;</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLASS Resolution on School Calendar Decisions Remaining the Responsibilities of LEA's –continued</li> </ul>	<p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>The Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education requests that the General Assembly recognize the most important function of a school calendar is to serve the educational needs of the students; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly recognize that it has already provided for equal educational opportunities across Tennessee by mandating a uniform one hundred and eighty (180) days of classroom instruction which must be in any calendar set by a local education agency; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly recognize that it has provided for teacher education by mandating five (5) days of in-service education per year which must be included in any calendar set by a local education agency; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly recognize that it has provided for parental involvement by mandating one (1) day for parent-teacher consultation that must be included in any calendar set by a local education agency;</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly recognize that it has established twelve (12) state holidays which are reflected in calendars established by local education agencies; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the General Assembly recognize that it has already passed legislation regarding commencement of the school year (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004(f)); and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Tennessee General Assembly leave setting school calendars in the hands of the school boards elected by their communities to manage and control their local schools.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Code of Ethic Policy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ms. Johnson made the motion to accept the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Code of Ethic Policy. Mr. Glover seconded.</b></p> <p><b><u>Section 1. Definitions.</u></b></p> <p>(1) "School district" means Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, which was duly created by a public or private act of the General Assembly; and which</p>	<p><b>VOTE:7-0- Unanimous (Ms. Porter out of the room)</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Code of Ethic Policy – continued</li> </ul>	<p>includes all boards, committees, commissions, authorities, corporations or other instrumentalities appointed or created by the school district or an official of the school district.</p> <p>(2) “Officials and employees” means and includes any official, whether elected or appointed, officer, employee or servant, or any member of any board, agency, commission, authority or corporation (whether compensated or not), or any officer, employee or servant thereof, of the school district.</p> <p>(3) “Personal interest” means, for the purpose of disclosure of personal interests in accordance with this Code of Ethics, a financial interest of the official or employee, or a financial interest of the official’s or employee’s spouse or child living in the same household, in the matter to be voted upon, regulated, supervised, or otherwise acted upon in an official capacity.</p> <p><b><u>Section 2. Disclosure of personal interest in voting matters.</u></b> An official or employee with the responsibility to vote on a measure shall disclose during the meeting at which the vote takes place, before the vote and to be included in the minutes, any personal interest that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the official’s or employee’s vote on the measure. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, recuse himself or herself from voting on the measure.</p> <p><b><u>Section 3. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.</u></b> An official or employee who must exercise discretion relative to any matter other than casting a vote and who has a personal interest in the matter that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the exercise of the discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on the attached disclosure form and file the disclosure form with the school district’s central office. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, recuse himself or herself from the exercise of discretion in the matter.</p> <p><b><u>Section 4. Acceptance of gifts and other things of value.</u></b> An official or employee, or an official’s or employee’s spouse or child living in the same household, may not accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, money, gratuity, or other consideration or favor of any kind from anyone other than the school district that a reasonable person would understand was intended to influence the vote, official action or judgment of the official or employee in executing decision-making authority affecting the school district.</p> <p>It shall not be considered a violation of this policy for an official or employee to receive entertainment, food, refreshments, meals, health screenings, amenities,</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Code of Ethic Policy – continued</li> </ul>	<p>foodstuffs, or beverages that are provided in connection with a conference sponsored by an established or recognized statewide association of school board officials or by an umbrella or affiliate organization of such statewide association of school board officials.</p> <p><b>Section 5. Ethics Complaints.</b> The school district may create a School District Ethics Committee (the “Ethics Committee”) consisting of three members who will be appointed to one-year terms by the Chairman of the Board of Education with confirmation by the board of education. At least two members of the committee shall be members of the board of education. The Ethics Committee shall convene as soon as practicable after its appointment and elect a chair and a secretary. The records of the Ethics Committee shall be maintained by the secretary and shall be filed in the office of the director of schools, where they shall be open to public inspection.</p> <p>Questions and complaints regarding violations of this Code of Ethics or of any violation of state law governing ethical conduct should be directed to the chair of the Ethics Committee. Complaints shall be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint, and shall set forth in reasonable detail the facts upon which the complaint is based.</p> <p>The School District Ethics Committee may investigate any credible complaint against an official or employee charging any violation of this Code of Ethics, or may undertake an investigation on its own initiative when it acquires information indicating a possible violation, and make recommendations for action to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the Committee’s judgment, constitutes a violation of this Code of Ethics. If a member of the Committee is the subject of a complaint, such member shall recuse himself or herself from all proceedings involving such complaint.</p> <p>The Committee may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) refer the matter to the Board Attorney for a legal opinion and/or recommendations for action;</li> <li>(2) in the case of an official, refer the matter to the school board body for possible public censure if the board body finds such action warranted;</li> <li>(3) in the case of an employee, refer the matter to the official responsible for supervision of the employee for possible disciplinary action if the official finds discipline warranted;</li> <li>(4) in a case involving possible violation of state statutes, refer the matter to the district attorney for possible ouster or criminal prosecution;</li> </ol> <p>The interpretation that a reasonable person in the circumstances would apply shall be used in interpreting and enforcing this Code of Ethics. When a violation of this Code of Ethics also constitutes a violation of a personnel policy or a civil service policy, the</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Code of Ethic Policy – continued</li> </ul>	<p>violation shall be dealt with as a violation of the personnel or civil service provisions rather than as a violation of this Code of Ethics.</p>	
<b>BOARD DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tennessee Comprehensive Systemwide Planning Process (TCSPP) Update – Dr. Kecia Ray</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Ray presented a report on the Tennessee Comprehensive Systemwide Planning Process (TCSPP) to the Board. The TCSPP consists of four goals: Ensure all K-12 subgroups meet or exceed No Child Left Behind proficiency benchmarks in literacy and numeracy; Ensure all students with disabilities are guaranteed access to educational opportunities with no disabled peers to the maximum extent possible; Increase the graduation rate 5 percentile points each year in order to reach goal of 100% by 2014; and Ensure that all students demonstrate significant academic growth. With each goal of the TCSPP, Dr. Ray addressed the current status, goals and actions being taken to achieve future goals.</p> <p>Mr. North asked how close is the district to implementing a plan to meet the objectives of Goal 2 of the TCSPP. Dr. Ray said the plan will be presented to the Board in the near future. Mr. Glover asked what could have caused the decrease in ELL students? Dr. Changas said that he does not maintain the ELL database, but will try to get more detailed information. Dr. Ray stated that they would talk with Dr. Shelton and provide a response to Dr. Register. Mr. Glover asked how realistic is it that the 5% graduation rate increase will be achieved given the current data concerning freshman academics. Mr. Briggs said the data is being analyzed, and the next step is to identify the classes students failed. That information will be in the April report to the Board. Mr. Glover asked for details concerning enrollment numbers in the Ombudsman program. Mr. Thompson stated that principals have begun to utilize the program, and five of the eight sites are at capacity. Ms. Porter asked that future reports include reasons students are failing the classes, for example, absentees and discipline could be contributing factors. Mr. Briggs stated that once the cause of failure is identified, principals and leadership teams will be charged with developing action plans to address the issues. Dr. Register stated that it is important to use this data to take corrective action quickly and effectively. Ms. Johnson asked if failing students were placed in Credit Recovery and whether or not parent-teacher conferences were scheduled. Additionally, could the number of parents who attended the conference be addressed in the April report to the Board. Dr. Ray said yes.</p>	
<b>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>		



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with Nashville Public Library</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Register stated that he met with staff from the Nashville Public Library, and he looks forward to a good working relationship with the Metro public libraries as integration with MNPS libraries is discussed.</p>	
<b>BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance Committee</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. North stated that the Governance Committee met January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Committee members present were: Mr. North, Ms. Porter, Dr. Brannon, and Mr. Fox. The committee approved to bring to the Board the following documents for Board approval: Calendar of monitoring reports, Monitoring forms, Memo to Administration concerning new Monitoring process, and a public notice policy.</p> <p><b>Mr. North made the motion to place the following items on the February 10<sup>th</sup> Board consent agenda: calendar of monitoring, monitoring forms, and memo to the Administration concerning the new monitoring process. Mr. Coverstone seconded.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. North made the motion to move to place the public notice policy on the February 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting consent agenda. Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous</b></p> <p><b>VOTE: 8-0 - Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Needs Committee</li> </ul>	<p>On January 8, 2008 the Board approved a Ten Year (2009-2018) Capital Master Plan. The first year (2008-2009) of that plan included renovation or additions at nine schools as well as eleven “District-Wide” projects, which ranged from ADA compliance and vehicle replacement to technology needs. The total estimated cost of the proposed 2008-09 capital list was \$68,280,000. During the late summer and early fall, Joe Edgens had a number of meetings with Metropolitan Nashville Finance Director Rich Riebeling to discuss the MNPS capital request. Mr. Riebeling explained that the bonding capacity of Metro Nashville was not in a position that allowed the city to propose the desired capital spending package for its various departments. Mr. Riebeling asked Mr. Edgens to propose a package of about \$25,000,000 for consideration. Mr. Edgens met with other senior staff members at MNPS to prioritize its 2008-2009 capital projects. Mr. Edgens then produced options for \$26,515,000, \$29,653,000, and \$32,945,000. Each of these options reduced the number of school-specific projects and reduced the amount of funding for the district-wide projects. At a meeting with Mayor Dean, Deputy Mayor Hinote, Finance Director Riebeling, and Dr. Danielle Mezera in late September, Mr. Edgens was informed that a MNPS capital plan that contained the \$26,515,000 option plus the renovation of the Madison and Wharton buildings and a classroom addition to Crieve Hall Elementary School would be proposed to the Metropolitan Council. It was explained that the bond market was not favorable to propose a capital package at that time, but it would be considered</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Needs Committee - continued</li> </ul>		

