

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
August 25, 2009

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call 	<p>Members Present: David A. Fox, Chair; Gracie Porter, Vice-Chair; Dr. Jo Ann Brannon; Dr. Sharon Gentry; Steve Glover; Karen Y. Johnson; Mark North; Kay Simmons; and Student Board Members, Mr. Steele and Mr. Haidar</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"> • Pledge of Allegiance 	<p>Led by Amy Downey, Principal of DuPont-Hadley Middle School.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Memoriam –William James Harris, Glenn Davis and James Ramsey 	<p>William James Harris 10/16/53 - 05/12/2009 – During his seven years of service to Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Mr. Harris served as Campus Supervisor at Stratford High School. He performed his duties by establishing high expectations and encouraging students. He always had a ready smile and a hand out-stretched to give assistance. His loss is deeply felt by the faculty and staff of Stratford High School and Student Services, and they ask that we hold his wife and children in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.</p> <p>Glenn Davis 10/22/53 - 06/17/2009 - Mr. Davis served as the In-School Suspension Monitor at McKissack Middle School. He touched the lives of many students in this role. He was firm, but fair, always showing genuine interest in the success of students. He could always be counted on for his quiet leadership. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.</p> <p>James Ramsey 05/1/47– 08/11/09 -Mr. James Ramsey will be missed greatly as the night custodian at Crieve Hall Elementary, where he served for the last 2 years. He had previously worked in private industry and quickly made Crieve Hall his home. He was the father of three children, James, Rebecca and Sabrina and devoted husband to Rita, the bookkeeper/secretary at Antioch Middle School. He had a keen sense of humor, always identified by his white beard and suspenders, and was a cooperative member of the Crieve Hall family. He never seemed to know a stranger and was always talking about his love of family and fishing. Mr. Ramsey passed from this life suddenly on Tuesday, August 11th after a brief illness. He will be missed by all.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Board Member Report 	<p>Mr. Steele announced that many of the high schools had a great first day of school and are enjoying the new Standard School Attire (SSA) options. MLK High School has implemented free after-school math tutoring, and other schools are encouraged to adopt the same initiative. MLK students would also like to develop more community service opportunities in order to bridge the gap between the school and the surrounding community. Mr. Steele stated</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Board Member Report - continued 	<p>that his goal is to contact at least one student from each high school for updates on their school's activities. Mr. Haidar announced that McGavock High School had a great first day. Dr. Register, Mr. Glover, parents and community members attended McGavock High School's first day and assisted students with finding classes. Mr. Glover and community members also attended the freshman orientation where each student received a dictionary courtesy of the Rotary Club in Donelson.</p>	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIONS Consent Agenda 	<p>Ms. Porter read the following consent agenda items: II-A-1-a-Approval of Minutes - 8/11/09 Regular Board Meeting; II-A-1-b – Change Order #4 John Overton High School Addition and Renovations – Shankle-Lind, LLC- M-412; II-A-1-c - Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) AVID Center, (2.) Tennessee Department of Education. Mr. Glover moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Johnson seconded.</p>	VOTE: 8-0 - Unanimous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Dismissal Charges – Wanda Lewis 	<p>Dr. Register read the following dismissal letter: I am writing to recommend the dismissal of Wanda Lewis from employment as a tenured teacher with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-511. I have charged her with incompetence, inefficiency, neglect of duty, unprofessional conduct, and insubordination, which are all grounds for her dismissal pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-511. These charges are specifically defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-501.</p> <p>Evidence supporting these charges was set forth in my letter to Wanda Lewis on August 13, 2009, a copy of which is attached. I am asking you to certify these charges by voting that if proven true, these charges warrant Wanda Lewis's dismissal. Should you certify these charges, I will inform Wanda Lewis of your action and formally advise her of the right to request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer.</p> <p>At the present time, I am only asking you to certify the charges. I am not asking you to weigh evidence either for or against dismissal. I am merely asking you to vote that the charges, if proven true, warrant dismissal. If Wanda Lewis requests a hearing, it will occur at some point in the future.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is my recommendation that Wanda Lewis be dismissed from employment with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Mr. Glover moved to certify the charges against Wanda Lewis. Ms. Porter seconded.</p>	VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Dismissal Charges – Lisa Ostrom 	<p>Dr. Register read the following dismissal letter: I am writing to recommend the dismissal of Lisa Ostrom from employment as a tenured teacher with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-511. I have charged her with incompetence, inefficiency, neglect of duty, unprofessional conduct, and insubordination, which are all grounds for her dismissal pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-501.</p> <p>Evidence supporting these charges was set forth in my letter to Ms. Ostrom on August 19, 2009, a copy of which is attached. I am asking you to certify these charges by voting that if proven true, these charges warrant Ms. Ostrom’s dismissal. Should you certify these charges, I will inform Ms. Ostrom of your action and formally advise her of the right to request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer.</p> <p>At the present time, I am only asking you to certify the charges. I am not asking you to weigh evidence either for or against dismissal. I am merely asking you to vote that the charges, if proven true, warrant dismissal. If Ms. Ostrom requests a hearing, it will occur at some point in the future.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is my recommendation that Ms. Ostrom be dismissed from employment with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.</p> <p>Mr. Glover moved to certify the charges against Lisa Ostrom. Ms. Simmons seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: 8-0 – Unanimous</p>
REPORTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Report 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Aldorothy Wright 	<p>Dr. Register introduced Dr. Aldorothy Wright, Interim Associate Superintendent of High Schools, to the Board.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening of Schools Report 	<p>Amy Downey, Principal of DuPont-Hadley Middle School, and Fran Gregory, Reading Specialist (K-12), shared their heartwarming, funny stories from experiences during the first day of school with MNPS students.</p> <p>Mr. Edgens presented a Facilities Report for the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. Renovations, ADA upgrades or classroom additions were made to the following schools: Harpeth Valley Elementary, Paragon Mills Elementary, Cole Elementary, Una Elementary, Apollo Middle, J.E. Moss Elementary, Overton High, and Maplewood High. Additionally, the HVAC system was replaced at Bellevue Middle. Kirkpatrick Elementary has a new</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening of Schools Report - continued 	<p>P.E. Room that was completed in April 2009. During the summer, Maintenance completed numerous work orders, serviced many schools, and relocated 107 displaced teachers.</p> <p>Mr. Phillips presented a report on Transportation's status for the first week of school. MNPS had one of its best opening of schools due to bus drivers and monitors, teachers, principals, school security, and customer service representatives all working together. There are 328 regular education bus routes, nine NCLB buses, and 201 exceptional education routes for a total of 538 buses.</p> <p>Mr. Weber presented the Board with the Student Assignment Services report. Based on the enrollment count for day eight, there are approximately 75,600 students enrolled in MNPS, approximately 570 more than the October 2008 enrollment. Historically, data predicts a growth of around 1,100 students between the eighth day and the twentieth day of school. Enrollment is projected on a school-by-school basis. This year, the pupil-teacher ratio was allocated based on a free and reduced meal percentage. The highest poverty schools received the lowest pupil-teacher ratios. Mr. Weber said No Child Left Behind (NCLB) choice numbers will be available in a couple of weeks.</p> <p>Ms. Porter said she was excited about the lower pupil-teacher ratio. Ms. Johnson asked if information could be given to the Board concerning NCLB choice. Mr. Weber said he will alert Denise Gregory of the request. Mr. Glover also requested that the Administration provide clarity to parents concerning NCLB choice. Dr. Brannon asked how new students are made aware of the rezoning options. Mr. Weber said the schools have been instructed to notify students and provide information on the zoning options. Mr. Glover thanked the Administration for a great start of school and also the McGavock community for their support.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minority Recruitment 	<p>Mr. Tinnon presented a Power Point to the Board on the recruitment of minority teachers. For the 2009-10 school year, there were 44 high school, 23 middle school and 36 elementary minority teachers hired. Out of 51 Teach For America candidates, 11 were minority teachers. Out of 95 applicants from the New Teacher Project, 26 were minority teachers. Out of a total of 103 minority teachers hired, 22 were male and 81 were female. Currently, MNPS has a total of 1,923 (28.7%) certificated minority teachers.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charter Schools Update 	<p>Mr. Coverstone presented the Board with a Charter School Update. The</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charter Schools Update - continued 	<p>Charter School Office has been focused on organizing to prepare for the application period in October, while simultaneously implementing an oversight and monitoring process that will be used to assess, improve, and inform regarding the operation of MNPS charter schools. A probationary status has been established to improve communication. One school is in a probationary period this year to focus on improving its test scores (Smithson-Craighead), and another school is on probation as it resolves operational deficiencies, mostly associated with an incomplete transportation plan (Global Academy). Specific dates for that school to report on its progress have been established and resolving the challenges created by its efforts to provide transportation county-wide. Communication and oversight are just two of the areas where Nashville is ahead of the curve. MNPS charter schools have made promises in their applications, and the Charter School Office will hold them to those promises. But in order for that to happen, MNPS must be transparent, clear, and communicative. We must open charters in Nashville that fit the needs of students and demonstrate excellence in public education in Nashville. A higher number of applications are expected this year, and we plan to handle those applicants with the same high quality assessment used in the past. The first review of all applications will involve specialists in different areas to review different parts of the applications, and the committee will use this feedback and its own review to dismiss applications that will not rise to the level of acceptance this year. The second review will engage in a rigorous interview process to recommend schools for your approval only if they are ready to make significant improvement in our student achievement in the short-term and capable of sustaining their model for the long-term. Board members are urged to attend some of the second round meetings in order to find out more information on the people and programs.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson asked about the selection of the Charter School Committee members. Mr. Coverstone said Dr. Register is working on assigning members to the committee. Dr. Register said if a Board member would like to submit a name for the committee, it should be submitted to Mr. Coverstone and he will consider the name. Mr. North asked how the Global Academy Charter School added an additional grade. Mr. Coverstone said he could explain how the extra grade was actually added, and there is uncertainty concerning who is at fault. Mr. Coverstone said the charter school will submit an amended application for the additional grade. Ms. Porter said she</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charter Schools Update- continued 	<p>does not want other charter schools to assume they can begin amending applications in order to make changes to the charter school. Dr. Register stated he believed MNPS is getting a good head start on managing charter schools. Mr. Fox asked if issues with charter school compliance will be communicated to the Board. Mr. Coverstone said he will alert the Board of compliance issues. Mr. Coverstone stated that he is also working on Private Schools and figuring out what students in these schools are receiving services. Mr. Glover asked if Mr. Coverstone will present the Board with a recommendation concerning the charter school that is out of compliance. Mr. Coverstone said yes. Mr. North said it is important that MNPS holds each school to a high standard so that every school is a good school.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attendance and Truancy 	<p>Mr. Thompson presented a report to the Board on Attendance and Truancy. The Attendance reporting process is transitioning from a system that focused primarily on simply notifying a parent of legal responsibility and petitioning children to a system that will determine why a child does not attend school and providing the child with interventions. One key addition will be the Cluster Support Team. There will be one team in each cluster consisting of three social workers, one Family and Youth Services Assistant (FAYSA), and one clerk. Teachers will be asked to take an active role by personally contacting the parents of truant students and investigating why students are not attending school at 3 to 4 days of unexcused absences. In an effort to improve the issuing, documenting and recording of student's notes, excuse notes will be processed through centrally located areas in the building. Students with more than 4 days of unexcused absences will be referred by teachers to School Attendance Teams for review of the student's attendance history to ensure the school has done everything needed to help the child. Attendance Teams will review the referrals and submit them to their Cluster Support Team. Social Workers and FAYSA's will visit schools during the morning hours and meet with referred students and contact the parent while meeting with the child. The student history will be reviewed for issues that would prevent a child from being successful. Interventions will be implemented to help students be successful. The Cluster Support Team, along with the Court Liaison, will be responsible for making sure that all students petitioned to court have been thoroughly reviewed in order to prevent parents, students, and staff from being inconvenienced. Over 1,000 letters have been delivered to students who have attendance issues, and the process has been explained to each principal. Each principal received an Attendance Tool Kit which includes contact information and other pertinent</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attendance and Truancy - continued 	<p>items. Last year, there was a 26% decrease in truancy, and we look forward to this plan bringing more positive results. Dr. Register thanked Mr. Thompson, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Carr for working with the Mayor's Office on this new plan. Mr. Thompson thanked his staff and the Juvenile Court Clerk for their hard work and support.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Old Cockrill and Opry Mills Academies 	<p>Dr. Register stated that the Academies at Old Cockrill and Opry Mills have recruited students and opened their doors. There are currently 95 students at Old Cockrill and 77 students at Opry Mills. Winter Graduation plans have been scheduled for many students; open houses for both schools will be held in the near future.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evening Alternative Program 	<p>Dr. Register presented a Power Point to the Board on Twilight Schools (grades 5-12). The objectives of the Twilight School are: To provide students facing suspension an opportunity for academic success in an alternate setting; To reduce the number of short-term and long-term suspensions by providing additional educational options; and To teach and equip students with coping skills and strategies to appropriately self-regulate their behavior.</p> <p>Students who attend the program are those facing non-zero tolerance out-of-school suspension, whose parents agree to this educational opportunity and can provide transportation. This is an option for principals to offer in lieu of out-of-school suspension. The program will run from Sept. 1- April 30.</p> <p>Mr. Fox asked what type of monitoring process should be used to evaluate the Twilight program. Dr. Register said the success rate of the students and the reduction of out-of-school suspensions will be used. Mr. Glover asked where the students go after April 30. Dr. Register said students will return to their zoned school. The high school principal will also be in charge of the Twilight School. Dr. Gentry asked will the teachers of the program have to meet the same qualifications as current teachers? Dr. Register said yes. Ms. Porter asked if Twilight students will be allowed to take the TCAP with other students. Dr. Register said students will be offered the opportunity to keep up with their work.</p>	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Council Education and Budget and Finance Committees 	<p>Mr. Fox thanked Vice-Mayor Diane Neighbors for her inspired selections for committee chairpersons. The Metro Council Education Committee is now chaired by Kristine LaLonde, and the Metro Council Budget and Finance Committee is now chaired by Ronnie Steine.</p>	

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• MNPS Board Chair and Vice-Chair Elections	Mr. Fox announced that the Chair and Vice Chair elections will be held at the September 8 th Board meeting.	
• McGavock Coalition	Mr. Glover stated that the McGavock Coalition will hold its next meeting on September 11 th where discussion will be held around the McGavock Covenant. Information concerning the Covenant will be brought to the Board at a later time. He also thanked the Administration and the McGavock community and staff for their support on the first day of school.	
• Career Academy Conference	Ms. Porter announced that she traveled with the Nashville Chamber of Commerce to Orlando, FL for a Career Academies Conference. She stated that the conference was very informative and would give Ms. Hawkins materials to share with the Board.	
• Kirkpatrick Elementary School	Ms. Porter announced that she attended the opening for Kirkpatrick Elementary School's new P.E. Room. She also brought souvenirs for the Board from the event.	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
• Sales Tax Collections as of August 20, 2009		
• Board Calendar Items		
• Adjournment	Ms. Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.	
• Signatures	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 150px; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Chris M. Henson Board Secretary </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 150px; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> David A. Fox Date Board Chair </div> </div>	