

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Minutes  
December 9, 2008

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; Ed Kindall; Mark North; Brittany McShand and Sierra Scivally, Student Board Members</p> <p>Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge of Allegiance</li> </ul>	Led by Councilman Duane Dominy.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Board Member Report</li> </ul>	Ms. McShand reported on the Student Advisory Council Meeting that was held on November 18th. At that meeting, Hands on Nashville helped the students develop action plans that would best fit their schools' problems. Ms. Scivally announced that on December 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Teens Making a Change (T-MAC) invited former Tennessee Titan Al Smith to speak to the group. Mr. Smith presented the group with useful information on life and planning for their futures. She also announced that Whites Creek's Drama Department held a production entitled <i>Real Life</i> on December 5-6. The next T-MAC meeting will be hosted by Big Picture High School on December 16 <sup>th</sup> at Rocketown.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Showcase – Shayne Elementary</li> </ul>	Students from Shayne Elementary performed several songs for the Board and audience.	
<b>AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dollar General PENCIL Partnership with Hattie Cotton Elementary</li> </ul>	Mr. Fox and Mr. Henson presented Dollar General with a Certificate of Recognition for their more than 25-year PENCIL partnership with Hattie Cotton Elementary School.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Sosa – Grand Prize Winner of the Keep Nashville Beautiful Art Contest</li> </ul>	Mr. Fox and Mr. Henson presented Ms. Sosa, a student at Una Elementary School, with a Certificate of Recognition for winning the grand prize in the Keep Nashville Beautiful Art Contest.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hillsboro High School Football Team – 4A State Champions</li> </ul>	Mr. Fox and Mr. Henson presented the Hillsboro High School football team with a Certificate of Recognition for winning the 4A State Championship.	
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teresa West – Director of Schools Search</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. West read the following letter to the Board from Doug Collier, President of SEIU.</p> <p>Dear School Board Member,</p> <p>Having reviewed the list of people being considered for Director of Schools for MNPS, we were surprised to see a glaring omission. Paul Doyle, a longtime administrator with MNPS, who is both qualified and highly respected in the education community, is not mentioned as being under consideration.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teresa West – Director of Schools Search - continued</li> </ul>	<p>Upon further investigation, our Union has discovered that Mr. Doyle has not been considered for the position because officials charged with the Director search seem to have misplaced his application materials.</p> <p>As we understand events, Mr. Doyle applied for the Director of Schools job when it was an interim position. When Metro officials decided to designate the position a permanent one, rather than as an interim position, Mr. Doyle spoke with Mr. Attea, who is with the search firm of Hazard, Young and Attea, as to whether he needed to reapply for the position. Mr. Attea informed Doyle on several occasions – both by phone and by email – that Doyle’s application materials were in order and that he did not need to reapply. Once the deadline for application passed and Mr. Doyle inquired about the status of his application, he was told by MNPS officials that they had no record of his application. This is a troubling development under any circumstance, but especially so during the trying times that Metro Schools now face.</p> <p>As the difficult search for a Director of Schools at MNPS continues, it is crucial that all viable candidates who applied for the job, in good faith, are considered. We are asking that Mr. Doyle’s application be considered in the search, along with all other viable candidates. This helps maintain fairness and integrity of the process and would make sure that our community gets to see the full range of talented individuals who want to make Nashville’s schools the best. Our children deserve no less.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary Carpenter – Concerns about School Choice and Title 1</li> </ul>	Ms. Carpenter spoke to the Board concerning school choice and Title 1 issues.	
<b>GOVERNANCE ISSUES</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACTIONS</li> <li>Consent Agenda</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ms. Porter read the following consent agenda items: V-A-1-a- Approval of Minutes –11/25/08 Regular Board Meeting; V-A-1-b – Recommended Extension of Contract for Roof Design &amp; Consultant – Benchmark, Inc. – L-912; V-A-1-c- Recommended Extension of Contract for Design of ADA Renovations – The Larkin Group – L-1492; V-A-1-d- Change Order #2 for Roof Replacement at J.T. Moore Middle School – Burress Roofing Co., Inc. –M-393; V-A-1-e- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1) Discovery Education Assessment, LLC, and (2) University Community Health Services, Inc. Mr. Glover moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Johnson seconded.</b></p>	<b>VOTE: For–9-0 Unanimous</b>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Disciplinary Appeal</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ms. Johnson moved to affirm the Administration’s decision and not grant a hearing to the student. Mr. Glover seconded</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: For-9-0 Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to Approve Resolution to Support Appointed Superintendents</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Glover made the motion to adopt the Support Appointed Superintendents Resolution. Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p> <p>WHEREAS, the appointment of school superintendents was the cornerstone of the Education Improvement Act of 1992, patterning school governance after the business model, with elected school boards responsible for setting policy and board-appointed chief executive officers in charge of day-to-day administration of schools; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Education Improvement Act and the appointment of superintendents have provided greater flexibility at the local level to operate schools and made school systems more accountable for results; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the appointment of superintendents provides a broader pool of qualified candidates and removes residency limitations, allowing the selection to be based solely on professional qualifications and leadership skill rather than the political savvy of only those individuals living in a particular district and willing to run for office, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the appointed superintendent is accountable to the Board of Education and may be replaced for failure to achieve the standards and goals established by the local board and the state; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the appointment of the superintendent ensures cooperation and a common vision with the Board of Education to improve student achievement and overall school performance; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, history in Tennessee has shown that most elected superintendents are voted out of office after one term – just around the time school systems, students and the community can begin to benefit from their increased knowledge and experience; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, only three states in the entire country (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi) continue to participate in the outdated practice of electing school superintendents, electing less than one percent of the more than 15,000 superintendents in the United States; and</p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0 Unanimous</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to Approve Resolution to Support Appointed Superintendents - continued</li> </ul>	<p>WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly will undoubtedly continue to face pressure to revert to elected superintendents, particularly from some local funding bodies reluctant to increase education funding and improve schools systems budgets and frustrated with the lead advocacy roles of appointed superintendents;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education encourages the Tennessee General Assembly to place the interest of students above any other by recognizing the value of appointed superintendents and rejecting any attempt to revert to superintendent elections.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Coverstone made the following remarks concerning the Charter School Application Review process: "I would like to thank all the members of the school district staff who participated with the Charter School Review Committee's core team this year. As noted in our previous report, we learned a great deal about the process, and we would not have been able to arrive at this point without you. I must thank our committee chair, Carol Swann, who will bring the committee's recommendations regarding the three applicants to you in a few minutes. Her tireless dedication and coordination kept us on task and helped us to manage a large undertaking in what we have already pointed out to be too little time. Mary Johnston and Tracy Utley also worked consistently to ensure that we followed proper procedures and deliberated effectively.</p> <p>Thanks also to Dr. Danielle Mezera from the Mayor's office, Mr. Marc Hill from the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Avi Poster who is one of the most tireless education advocates I have ever known. No matter what the future of Nashville's School system holds, we know that charter schools will play a part. The aims of the District's Charter Policy are to promote innovation and choice so that the children of Nashville are educated in dynamic and ever-improving schools that meet their particular needs. Both state law and common sense dictate that MNPS needs to approach the chartering of schools deliberately and with seriousness of purpose. Starting a new school is hard, and starting one in an environment of isolation is even harder. The Committee wants to commend and thank each of this year's applicants for their willingness to partner with the District in advancing our common mission to bring exemplary education to the children of Nashville. Without exception, your passion is unquestioned, your dedication appreciated, and your persistence inspired. The Committee realizes that welcoming charter schools cannot mean opening the doors to all comers regardless of preparation and fit.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued</li> </ul>	<p>However, we must do more than simply allowing applicants to apply if they wish. We need policies and procedures that will help us to recruit strong applicants that fit our needs, partner with applicants during the application process, and work with new schools so that their resource needs and transition periods are well-managed. If we get the relationship right, our schools will learn as much from the charters as the charters receive from us and all the students of the District will prosper. If we get the process wrong, we will harm both the charter applicants and the children they attempt to serve by setting both up to fail rather than to succeed.</p> <p>Chartering schools is a sub-contracting responsibility of the Board of Education, and it must be taken seriously. Too often, the process became an afterthought for people who were too busy with other duties to offer meaningful and timely evaluation of charter applicants so that we can be sure we make wise decisions. Whether the cause is structural or attitudinal, we cannot continue to create the impression that we do not take the chartering process more seriously.”</p> <p><b>Mr. Coverstone made a motion to approve the following recommendations from the Charter School Application Committee:</b></p> <p><b>To convene a working group to review the charter law, policy, and process in MNPS. The working group will be composed of the members of the Core Committee from this year’s charter review process and solicit other useful perspectives at the discretion of the working group to include charter school principals and representatives of interested community organizations.</b></p> <p><b>The charge of the working group shall be to compile and present recommendations to:</b></p> <p><b>The Advocacy Committee of the Board for the purpose of promoting changes to state law;</b></p> <p><b>The Director of Schools and full Board of Education for the purpose of revising the District’s Standard Operating Procedure on Charter Schools, and;</b></p> <p><b>The Director of Schools for the purpose of suggesting mission, duties, and job description of a Charter School Office or Division to facilitate cooperation between MNPS, prospective charter applicants, and</b></p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (Smithson-Craighead Middle School)</li> </ul>	<p>ability to run a successful school. We know the challenges of meeting the ambitious goals we required in this revision will take hard work and consistent dedication, and we look forward to partnering with Smithson-Craighead to be sure that the children who choose to attend Smithson-Craighead Middle School are well-served by that choice.</p> <p>Below is our rationale from the first application and how this school has addressed those concerns:</p> <p>The major deficiencies in this application centered on the educational plan and instructional goals. The committee had concerns with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructional goals and objectives are vague. The committee did not understand what the created courses listed on page 13 of the application would look like. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Smithson-Craighead’s amended application presents a much clearer picture of what their course offerings will look like and schedules of student days that are comprehensive and well thought out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Textbooks and supplemental materials are not mentioned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Textbooks are listed in detail and are aligned with the new 2009-10 Tennessee State standards. They are taken from the state approved textbook list.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• While there is a computer lab mentioned, there is no concrete reference to technology standards or software that will be purchased. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Student use of the computer lab and goals for student mastery are presented in the amended application. Smithson-Craighead has taken the Tennessee state standards for technology and has indicated that all students will attend one lab class per week. Additionally, each classroom will have five computers that will enable teachers to utilize technology throughout the curriculum areas. The software choices and on-line learning sites are proven best practice resources that are appropriate for middle school age students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (NAST)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On page 129 of the application it is stated that “teachers at NAST will have a good sense of where their students are at the beginning of the year and have measurable goals for where they will be at the end of the year.” However, the method by which this will be accomplished is unclear and how it will be communicated to the staff is unspecified.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ While NAST does explain how data driven decision making will work at the school, they still do not offer a timeline of exactly when this will happen. The committee expected to see exactly what assessments would be given at the beginning of the school year and how that would inform instruction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Also unclear are methods of teacher observation and how teachers will be evaluated.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This section was much clearer in the amended application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The application lacks clear professional development strategies to ensure teachers are trained in how to use data to inform instruction.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NAST is still unclear concerning professional development. Although it is indicated that teachers will participate in some professional development at least once per month, exactly what that would look like is not specified. NAST gives some generalities, but no specifics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The teaching day is unclear – the committee does not see how collaborative planning time can be accomplished within the published schedule.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The student schedules provided do not alleviate the committee’s concerns that there will be common planning time for teachers, nor do they show any kind of master schedule.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The plans for intervention and remediation, should students fail to make AYP, lack detail and specificity. Methods of assessment and</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (NAST)</li> </ul>	<p>appropriate testing instruments are not identified in the application. The committee is unclear how students would be referred for disabilities screening based on academic performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Testing instruments and methods of assessment and screening are still not specified in the amended application.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application does not adequately address how this school will meet the needs of students with disabilities. Specifically, it is unclear how they will request support, transportation or relocation services from MNPS for students with “extreme cases”.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MNPS special education staff still is not satisfied that NAST will provide a full continuum of special education services that is independent of MNPS. NAST also states that they support relocating students to a different school and that they expect assistance from MNPS for either transportation or relocation services for “extreme cases”. What exactly makes a case “extreme” is not identified.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The finances for this school are unclear. A charter must prove that it is financially sustainable for the entire five years of the contract. NAST’s liquid assets are likely not adequate for year one.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MNPS budget staff has indicated that this school could more than likely sustain itself as submitted in the amended budget.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NAST seems to be relying on a substantial loan and offers proof only of a pre-approval letter for a line of credit.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NAST does provide other financial resources in the amended application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is no building identified, and the money NAST has budgeted for building rental is inadequate.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is still no building identified, although our budget staff spoke with the identified realtor and there are on-going</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (Global Academy)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no Network Administrator’s salary identified, but one will be needed to maintain all the technology for the school.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Network Administrator’s salary was identified in the amended application.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr. Coverstone stated that the committee would like to see this type of high school in the district. But we must ensure that the submitted applications are developed in such a way that will result in student success. Ms. Johnson asked if the committee would have a conversation with NAST representative to ensure the next submitted application will meet all requirements. The next application should be as excellent as possible. Mr. Coverstone said he hopes that there will be those types of discussions with NAST before the next application period.</p> <p><b>Mr. Glover moved to adopt the committee’s recommendation to deny Nashville Academy of Science and Technology’s amended application. Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p> <p>Ms. Swann presented the recommendations for Global Academy. The Charter School Review Committee recommends that the Metropolitan Nashville Public School Board of Education approve the 2008 amended application of Global Academy to establish a K-8 school, beginning with grades K-3 in the first year, as submitted. The committee is excited by the incredible energy and dedication of the school’s founder. Equally exciting is the vision to become an IB Early Years school. The global vision of the school and its commitment to securing external resources that will make opportunities for travel and other unique experiences available to students offer incredible promise. The committee was impressed with the applicant’s attention to detail, willingness to work collaboratively with the district and their enthusiasm for the undertaking. It is our sincere hope that Global Academy will give us the opportunity to forge new connections between our charter schools and the district as we work together to advance student achievement for the children of Nashville.</p> <p>Our reasoning is explained in detail below:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VOTE: 9-0 Unanimous</b></p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (Global Academy)</li> </ul>	<p>The major deficiencies in this application centered on the educational plan, instructional goals and budget. The committee had concerns with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNPS charter school policy clearly states that an expectation for establishment of a charter school is that it will follow specified tier levels: K-4, 5-8, or 9-12. This school proposes to begin with grades 2, 3, and 4, with no clear rationale as to why they wish to deviate from the established tier levels.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global Academy corrected the tier level concerns of the committee and proposes to begin with Kindergarten -3<sup>rd</sup> grades as allowed in MNPS policy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The financial picture for this school is unclear. The monies are not broken down and placed on the correct lines on the budget form as required by the State and it is difficult to understand. Some of the submitted applications did not include a budget at all.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global Academy corrected this deficiency, submitting their budget on the appropriate forms as well as outlining their separate and considerable financial picture. The committee is convinced that this school will be self-sustaining for the length of the five year charter.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Professional development plans are not clear to the committee – how teachers will be trained in reviewing and using assessment data to inform instruction.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Professional development is outlined very specifically, down to how many hours of each kind of professional development a teacher will be given and who will be contracted to deliver the training. Professional development goals are clear and focused on improving student achievement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The code of conduct appears to direct appeals to discipline to the Director of Schools and that is incorrect.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (Global Academy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This deficiency has been corrected in the amended application.</li> <li>• ELL curriculum and interventions are not clearly outlined.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Our ELL staff has given this school an excellent rating on the amended application. Global has defined research-based strategies for ELL students and has identified how they intend to utilize them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proposal does not include a discussion of ongoing formative assessment tools to be used to align with the Core Knowledge curriculum the school proposes to adopt.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ According to our Assessment and Evaluation staff evaluators; this concern has been adequately addressed, although there is still room for some improvement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is not specific how both summative and formative assessments will be used to inform instruction.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This concern has been addressed and the committee is satisfied that this school will utilize both formative and summative assessments to inform instruction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Methods for intervention and remediation, should students fail to make AYP, lack specificity and detail.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global improved on this answer and our Assessment staff is convinced that they are on the right track should there be students who fail to make AYP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Teacher schedules are unclear, as is the student day. As outlined, the scheduling time blocks and how they are utilized with students are not obvious to the committee.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global Academy presented schedules and explained their student and teacher day in much greater detail. The</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charter School Application Review Committee Recommendations – continued (Global Academy)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">committee is satisfied that this schedule is adequate for student needs.</p> <p>Mr. Kindall asked if the committee knows where the school will be located? Mr. Coverstone stated a building has not been selected, but the money is available and they are easily capable of finding a space. Mr. Coverstone stated that Global Academy has a very strong Board and has given the committee great confidence that they will be a successful school. Dr. Brannon asked if Global would be targeting a specific area? Ms. Swann stated that Global will be targeting the North/East Nashville areas. Ms. Johnson said she is excited that the school will be utilizing the IB Early Years Programme. Ms. Porter stated that it seems that most Charter Schools are targeting inner city or areas where there are a high number of students on free and reduced lunch. Why is it that all charter schools target those areas? That is something the Board should consider. Mr. Kindall stated that he shared some of Ms. Porter’s concerns. It seems that rather than school thinking in the terms of locating all across the district, charter schools seem to target the North/East Nashville areas. Dr. Gentry asked, has the committee considered suggesting location options to the charter applicants in the future? Transportation is a concern of charter schools, therefore there should be an even distribution of charter schools throughout the district. Ms. Swann stated that the committee has had some discussion around encouraging charter schools to locate throughout the district. Ms. Porter stated that the district must be considered first with the quality of the charter schools not quantity. Concerning transportation and placement of charters the district must think globally. Mr. Fox thanked the Charter School Committee for their hard work and dedication.</p> <p><b>Mr. Glover moved to adopt the committee’s recommendation to accept Global Academy’s application. Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VOTE: 9-0 Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2008-09 Operating Budget Amendment #1</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Glover moved to adopt Amendment #1 of the 2008-09 Operating Budget. Ms. Johnson seconded.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VOTE: 9-0 Unanimous</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to Approve Legal Counsel for Metro Board of Education</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. North made the following motion: Pursuant to TCA 49-2-203(b)(5) that the Board employ legal counsel for the limited purpose of advising it regarding the duties, responsibilities and the authority of the School Board as it relates to other governmental department and offices and other issues related to No Child Left Behind including executive branch/Mayoral take-over, receivership, trusteeship, restructuring or</b></p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to Approve Legal Counsel for Metro Board of Education - continued</li> </ul>	<p><b>other change in governance. And any other area where there is the potential for the appearance of a conflict of interest with the Metropolitan Department of Law or the executive branch. I further move that the Chair make a recommendation at the next regular scheduled Board meeting as to whom to employ, the necessary step to employ the attorney, and the terms of employment. Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p> <p>Mr. Coverstone noted the importance of being prepared but believes the timing is less of a legal question and more of a political question, given that the Board is not currently in a legal conflict. Therefore, it seems the Board has the luxury of time to sort through issues. He believes the Board needs outside support, and more specifically, clear input from the Mayor. He stated that he would be willing to defer obtaining legal counsel if the Mayor's Office would agree to meet with the Board and share his vision for the future of MNPS, discoveries regarding Mayoral take-over, and opinions of the Director of Schools candidates. Mr. Kindall said the only time he remembers the Board of Education hiring separate legal counsel was during the desegregation lawsuit. The Board does not want to give the impression that it is at odds with the Mayor's Office. He shares many of Mr. Coverstone's concerns but would like to have a personal discussion with the Mayor. Mr. North stated that he was in agreement with Mr. Coverstone. As a Board, at some point an independent entity will be needed in order to provide direction. Dr. Brannon said she is in support of improving communication between the governmental entities and the Board. Mr. Fox stated that the Board has a meeting scheduled with the Mayor in January. The Board asked Mr. Fox to research selecting legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Porter stated that when School Boards and other entities within the city work together, rewards are greater. Many of these issues are based on the assumption that MNPS will fail. She believes that MNPS is moving forward and must continue to stay focused. Mr. Fox stated he believes this issue is a concern. In order for the Board to be at maximum effectiveness, we must have collaboration with the Mayor's Office.</p> <p><b>Mr. North moved to defer the motion to the January 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting Ms. Porter seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0 Unanimous</b></p>
<b>REPORTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduation Rates</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Changas presented the 2007-08 MNPS graduation results to the Board. However, for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) purposes, this rate will be</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduation Rates - continued</li> </ul>	<p>counted in 2008. This delay allows districts to count those general education students who graduate in four years plus one summer, and special education and ELL students who graduate in five years plus one summer. For the last six years, improving the graduation rate has been a district priority. It is important to keep in mind that students in the class of 2008 began school in the fall of 2004. Annual NCLB graduation rate targets were first established for districts and schools in 2004, and 2003-04 was the first year that schools were credited only for those students graduating “on time.” The 2003-04 graduation rate for each school or district served as a baseline in the calculation of future targets. The State determined annual targets by dividing the gap between the 2003-04 graduation rate and the 2013-2014 goal of 90% into equal increments. By the State’s NCLB formula, the graduation rate for MNPS shows an increase of 14.4 percentage points over the past four years, from 58.2% in 2003-04 to 72.6% in 2007-08. Although the graduation rate is not yet where we want it, our recent improvement is quite impressive for an urban district of over 70,000 students and a poverty rate of over 72%. Prior to this four-year increase, the district graduation rate had remained virtually flat for three years at approximately 58%.</p> <p>Mr. North asked if the effectiveness of various programs in connection with the graduation rates could be tracked? Dr. Changas said many of the incentives were district-wide, and many initiatives started at the same time. So, it is difficult to pinpoint one particular program. But, we are having discussions with Edvantia around some of those issues. Mr. Kindall stated that he is happy to hear the district is working on improving Smaller Learning Communities. Is there any way to research the influence of the Pearl-Cohn High School Business Magnet program on the graduation rates? The district must find a way to determine whether or not the programs are successful. Dr. Changas said it is difficult to monitor results of a particular program at a school. Mr. Briggs stated that one thing the district is beginning to focus on is increasing the rigor of the ACT scores. The ACT scores give an insight on how students will do in college. We are working hard on programs to help better prepare students for college with programs such as content recovery, instead of credit recovery. The focus must be on all of the elements that affect student success, not only AYP.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Chairman’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Budget and Finance Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Glover made a motion for the Administration to bring to the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>, a plan for reducing the current budget by \$3 million to be implemented by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Kindall seconded.</b></p>	<p><b>VOTE: 9-0 - Unanimous</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Director Search</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Fox announced that a public reception will be held at the Martin Center for Dr. Santiago Wood, and at 6:30 the Board will have dinner and interview Dr. Wood.</p> <p>A public reception for Dr. Doris McEwen (December 17<sup>th</sup>) and Dr. Jesse Register (December 18<sup>th</sup>) will be held at the Martin Center at 4:30 p.m., and the Board will have dinner and second interviews on those days. The Board will hold a Special Meeting on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, to deliberate the selection of the next Director of Schools.</p>	
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Board Members</li> </ul>	Mr. Kindall thanked Ms. Scivally and Ms. McShand for their service to the Board.	
<b>WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Calendar Items</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Updates</li> </ul>		
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjournment</li> </ul>	Mr. Coverstone made the motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signatures</li> </ul>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 200px; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>Chris M. Henson Board Secretary</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 200px; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>David A. Fox      Date Board Chair</p> </div> </div>	