

**OFFICIAL  
MINUTES OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Blount County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the John P. Davis, Jr. Boardroom at the Central Office

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wren Wyss, a 3rd grade student at Walland Elementary School

Roll Call of the Board is as follows:

- Jim Compton                    Absent
- Charlie Finley                Present
- Fred Goins                    Present
- Trevis Gardner               Present
- Scott Helton                  Present
- Bill Padgett                  Present
- Debbie Sudhoff               Present

The clerk declared a quorum and Chairman Gardner called the meeting to order

There were no **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**RECOGNITIONS, REPORTS and PRESENTATIONS**

**Stan**

**Burnette**

- Middlesettlements Elementary boys' basketball team
- Montvale Elementary girls' basketball team

**SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Art Work-Boardroom-Montvale and Lanier Elementary Schools

**Trevis Gardner**

**DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT**

**Rob Britt**

- Expressed appreciation to teachers, staff, students and parents for smooth transition back into normal school operations
- Congratulated Mary Blount Elementary School teachers, staff, principal Jesse Robinette, and assistant principal Suzanne Graves for being awarded the Leadership Blount Legacy Project for 2016. MBES will be the first school to be completely 1:1 in technology integration and will be a pilot site to serve as the model school for guiding our digital conversion
- Principals were asked to collaborate with their staff and determine two high priority resources that would make a positive impact to student learning in the classroom. A summary, broken down by school and listing instructional needs by first and second requests, was prepared and distributed to the Board. The five major areas represented in all requests are: teachers, teaching assistants, Math/ELA instructional coach, technology coordinator, and tech related resources.
- Both Heritage and William Blount High Schools have been designated AP Honor Roll schools for the third year. Blount County is the only system in the state to win this award for three consecutive years.
- School Board Appreciation Week is January 24-30, 2016

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

**David Murrell**

- The Personnel Report will stand as submitted

## **TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

**John Herron**

- Last month 631 devices were processed, 456 were Chromebooks, and 304 of them were purchased by the schools

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Troy Logan**

- Mr. Logan reported current FY-YTD December 31st financial results for revenues, expenditures and fund balance

## **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**Gary Farmer**

- Intersection area Heritage High School complete (new roof, new floor)
- Construction meetings complete for roof jobs at Heritage and William Blount High Schools
- Michael Brady, Inc. currently preparing bid specs on HVAC room units for Heritage High School
- Article from December 2015 issue of "American School and University" in which Blount County Schools received Honorable Mention in the K-12 School District for Green Cleaning

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Approval of Prospect Elementary School Annual Black and Orange game held on December 14, 2015
- Approval of WBHS AFJROTC students-Drill Competition in Chattanooga, TN on December 5, 2015

**Motion to approve the Executive Committee Report by Mr. Finley**

**Seconded by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Seconded by Mr. Padgett**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

1. Approval of Agenda for January 7, 2016, Regular Meeting

2. Approval of Minutes for December 3, 2015, Regular Meeting

3. Approval of **TRIPS**

- WBHS AFJROTC students-Drill Competition in Gray, TN on January 16, 2016
- WBHS Interact Club students-Interact District Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN on March 4-6, 2016
- Eagleton Middle School-Biltmore Estates in Asheville, NC on May 7, 2016

4. Approval of **EDITORIAL POLICY CHANGES**

**Debbie Sudhoff**

- Policy #5.118-Employee Internet Postings and Social Media
- Policy #4.301-Interscholastic Athletics
- Policy #1.400-School Board Meetings
- Policy #6.2001-K-5 Attendance

5. Approval of **PAID, NON-FACULTY COACHES**

- John Michael Rogers-Townsend Elementary School-Boys' Basketball
- Lindy McGuire-Eagleton Middle School-Golf

6. Approval of Eagleton Middle School Volleyball Camp to be held on February 19-20, 2016 at a cost of \$45 per camper

**Motion to set agenda by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Seconded by Mr. Padgett**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

**AGENDA:**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution recognizing Matthew Stewart **Trevis Gardner**

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-01**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO MATTHEW STEWART FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Mr. Matthew Stewart was assigned from 2008 until 2015 as the Education Reporter for the The Daily Times, a daily newspaper in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, in Blount County, Tennessee, which has served readers since 1883; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart has served with distinction as the Education Reporter for The Daily Times and has demonstrated exemplary journalism talents and a profound interest in the endeavors of educating both the children, and adults of the community, including the efforts and enterprises of the Blount County Board of Education, Maryville Board of Education, Alcoa Board of Education, Pellissippi State Community College, as well as the numerous other educational pursuits in the Blount County Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart has actively and diligently pursued the interests of the education beyond the geographic limits of our local community, with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations dealing with education resources for our community, all of which have been of significant value to the citizens and others in our community served by education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart has finitely and judiciously with conscience and passion, sought to and perfectly executed a balance of serving the community around him with advocacy for education and the benefits thereof, and the role of the press in seeking and promoting accountability and responsibility in public service by public officials and their respective affiliated agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Members of the Blount County Board of Education deems it appropriate on the occasion of Mr. Stewart's transition from service as a member of the Press and News Services as Journalist, to honor him for that service, both as reporter and as an advocate for education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Blount County Board of Education express their sincere appreciation to Matthew Stewart for 8 years of continuous and dedicated service as an Education Reporter, and for his unselfish devotion and attention to the role of the press and the best interest of education in our community.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the records of the Blount County Board of Education and that a copy be furnished to Mr. Stewart.

Adopted this 7th day of January, 2016

**Motion to approve by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Seconded by Mr. Goins**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

2. Discussion and possible action on a resolution opposing the use of TNReady Test Data for teacher evaluations

for the 2015-16 school year

**Rob Britt**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE IN OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF TNREADY DATA FOR TEACHER EVALUATIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

WHEREAS, the Blount County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, through the work of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Department of Education, the State Board of Education and local school boards, has established nationally recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

WHEREAS, all school systems in Tennessee have been granted one-time flexibility in the 2015-2016 school year to choose not to integrate TNReady Quick Scores into students' final grades, due to an anticipated delay in assessment results; and

WHEREAS, this is the first year for the TNReady assessment; and

WHEREAS, TNReady is not a comparable assessment to TCAP; and

WHEREAS, the TNReady assessment requires the use of technology and the State of Tennessee BEP funding does not meet the needs of the Blount County Schools district; and

WHEREAS, over half of Blount County teachers do not produce individual TVAAS data; and

WHEREAS, the American Educational Research Association released a statement cautioning against the use of value added models, like TVAAS, for evaluating educators and using such data for high-stakes educational decisions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

The Blount County Board of Education strongly urges the General Assembly and the State Board of Education to provide a waiver from utilizing the TNReady data for the use of teacher evaluation for the school year 2015-2016.

ADOPTED BY THE ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD OF BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION on the 7th DAY OF JANUARY, 2016

Mr. Britt stated he supports and recommends this resolution. He stated he believes it is never appropriate to make employment decisions based on one metric or one year of testing results and he will not use this year's testing results as part of employment decisions. Mr. Britt stated this is a transitional year and all are learning the new testing format. Students will take these more rigorous tests online and the tests require more problem solving, constructive responses and proficiency using technology. The tests are also divided into two major testing windows instead of one week and our system is being challenged by the lack of technology to properly prepare and test the number of students taking the exams. Mr. Britt stated he believes the responsible and appropriate approach is to prepare our students to the best of our ability with the resources we have and do so without the stress of employment.

**Motion to approve by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Seconded by Mr. Padgett**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of a Transportation Coordinator position based on recommendation by the Transportation Committee **Rob Britt**

Mr. Britt read the following into the record: "Managing our bus transportation has changed considerably over the last few years. It is no longer wise or prudent to try to manage the transportation system without a sole full-time coordinator overseeing the daily operations of our bus transportation. Additionally, our risk management department has concerns and has recommended we consider hiring a fully dedicated staff member to transportation. This was brought to the attention of our transportation committee who supports a recommendation to hire a classified transportation coordinator to supervise the daily operation of our transportation system and support our principals and schools. In our school system, transportation is a necessity and one of our greatest liabilities. We run over 100 routes, and 7,700 miles per day in transporting around 8,000 students. When Mr. Burnette took this job 14 years ago, transportation was his only responsibility. Today he has Attendance, School Safety and Security, and Athletics in addition to transportation. This is no longer a realistic expectation for one person."

**Motion to approve by Mr. Padgett**

**Seconded by Mr. Finley**

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Mr. Finley Yes
- Mr. Gardner Yes
- Mr. Goins No
- Mr. Helton Yes
- Mr. Padgett Yes
- Mrs. Sudhoff Yes

**Vote: 5/1 Passed**

**Mr. Gardner requested a composite motion on agenda items 4-7 with an individual vote on each**

**Motion to approve agenda items 4-7 by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Seconded by Mr. Finley**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding **Budget Transfer-Fund 141-71200 (GPSF) \$24,000 Troy Logan**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

5. Discussion and possible action regarding **Budget Increase-Fund 141-76100 (GPSF) \$475,000****Troy Logan**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

6. Discussion and possible action regarding **Budget Increase-Fund 141-various (GPSF) \$10,930****Troy Logan**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

7. Discussion and possible action regarding **Budget Increase-Fund 177-91300-03051 (Educ. Capital Fund) \$80,000**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

**Troy Logan**

8. Discussion and possible action regarding School Bus Contract Number 101 be transferred from Rebecca Worde

to John Clabough, Rocky Top Tours effective January 7, 2016

**Stan**

**Burnette**

**Motion to approve by Mrs. Sudhoff**

**Seconded by Mr. Finley**

**Vote: 6/0 Passed**

9. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of contract with Community Tectonics Architects for architect and engineering consulting services for facility assessments at Heritage and William Blount High Schools

**Troy Logan**

**Mr. Logan requested this be moved to the February agenda-no action taken**

10. Discussion and possible action to restore the Certified Payroll Manager position from part-time to full-time effective January 15, 2016

**Troy Logan**

Mr. Logan requested the Certified Payroll Manager position be restored from part-time to full-time.

**Motion to approve by Mr. Padgett**

**Seconded by Mr. Finley**

**Vote: 5/1 (Mr. Goins voted no) Passed**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE BLOUNT COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

- Rebecca Dickenson congratulated Matthew Stewart and stated he will be missed. She also stated teachers are concerned regarding the new insurance and thanked the Board for passing the resolution opposing the use of TNREADY data for teacher evaluations.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

- Samuel Taylor (WBHS) stated a Tennessee Promise meeting was held yesterday and a financial aid meeting is scheduled for next Thursday

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Goins stated the Director's Evaluation Committee will meet on January 21st at 10:00 a.m.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- John Clabough-bidding of bus contracts

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

- Mr. Goins thanked the principals for providing a list of their needs to the Board
- Mrs. Sudhoff stated she spent Friday morning at Porter on the day they were vandalized and witnessed the school staff, community, and sheriff's office coming together. She stated parents and community members stopped by asking what they could do to help; the custodial staff met, planned and begin working to clean up the damage; and teachers and staff were supportive of each other.
- Mr. Goins stated he planned to have an item regarding veteran's day on next month's agenda
- Mr. Gardner stated the February Board Meeting would begin at 5:00 with a budget workshop held prior to the meeting from 1:00-4:00.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Helton

Seconded by Mr. Finley

Meeting Adjourned

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Trevis Gardner, Chairman

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Rob Britt, Secretary