

December 11, 2008

The Marshall County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room at Jones School.

Members present were Ann Tears, Mike Keny, Todd Tietgens, Delinda Owens, Mark Wilkerson, Curt Denton, Craig Michael, Kristen Gold, and Randy Perryman. No members were absent.

After the prayer, students from Oak Grove Elementary School led the pledge, followed by a performance of two Christmas songs by the OGES Eagle Ensemble, directed by teachers Todd Campbell and Mary Beth Grant.

Lori Beardsley, OGES teacher, assisted by students Grace Medley, Hannah Jo Shelton, Danielle Moore, Brooks Leftwich and Ashton Watkins, did a PowerPoint presentation of projects they completed in ExCel class.

To open the meeting, Mr. Denton made a motion to table the Lewisburg Water Department's request until the next board meeting. Mr. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2008, meeting. Mr. Perryman seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

Colin Beatty, president of the Marshall County Education Association, presented the MCEA report. He first invited board members to the upcoming MCEA-sponsored Countywide Spelling Bee which will take place on February 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Westhills Elementary School. He went on to thank the board and the county commission for the investment on the new technology equipment for the school system; he stated that the teachers would like to work with the county technology staff in working out any problems that may arise in the system. In order to alleviate any problems in a timely manner and to assure the teachers use the equipment, Mr. Beatty proposed the schools have at least one faculty member in the building who has the authority, access and the training to download and install software or make any other appropriate changes over the school year.

Ms. Gold made the motion to approve the disposal of the Federal Surplus (see attached). Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. Ms. Owens questioned whether

or not the items were functional; Dr. Curtis stated that none of the equipment was in working order. Mr. Denton and Mr. Michael then questioned if the items will be thrown away or bid for scrap; Dr. Curtis said that we would do whatever will bring the most money for the surplus. Suzanne Ingram, Marshall County School System's Supervisor of Technology, informed the board that often care must be used when disposing of technology. For example, she explained that the Macs are "all in one" and the monitors contain mercury and lead; therefore, the system has to pay someone to dispose of them. She said that when preparing a computer for disposal, the hard drive is taken out and the serial numbers removed before trashing, then a maintenance department source cuts out the glass and melts the parts. "Ideally," she continued, "to get rid of old computers and technology, you have to pay somebody. They don't pay you." Mr. Michael asked what needed to be done to collectively gather the obsolete equipment and purge it from the system; Dr. Curtis stated that the lack of storage would be a problem in collecting the equipment. "I understand if we get minimal use out of it (i.e.: many teachers run the AR program on old equipment) we want to keep that until we can replace it," Mr. Michael said. "Is there anything the board can do to help as far as a way to have a day, a week, a month they could purge anything that we think we could from the schools? I understand we don't have the space." Ms. Ingram replied, "If you'll give Dr. Curtis your list and how you want it done, then he'll get with me and we'll take care of that." Mr. Michael responded, "I was thinking you were probably the best judge of what should go and what should stay." "I don't argue with them if they want it; if you try to take something away from a teacher, it's not a pretty sight," Ms. Ingram said. The motion to dispose of the Federal Surplus passed 9-0.

Ms. Owens made a motion to approve fund raising requests from Marshall Elementary School (see attached). Mr. Denton seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

In the Budget Committee report, Ms. Gold, Chairman, reported that the Budget Committee has met twice since the last board meeting: the first being on November 19, in which committee members approved the budget calendar (see attached) and discussed the critical need for cost reductions. The budget committee asked that other committees, particularly the transportation and building/maintenance committees, coordinate with Dr. Curtis on a list of recommendations for cost reductions. In addition, Dr. Curtis will work with department heads on potential cost reductions. The tentative goal is a \$1.1

million reduction. At the December 4 budget committee meeting, Dr. Curtis presented a list of budget requests compiled from items submitted by the department heads (the first item listed on the budget calendar). Dr. Curtis will review the list and present the items, as well as academic needs, and make recommendations at the next budget committee meeting which is scheduled for January 22, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Gold stated that in addition to these items covered during the December 4th meeting, the budget committee discussed the fact that the current year's budget used a large amount of fund balance; the committee feels it's important that the board understand that the 2008-2009 budget had expenditures which exceeded revenues by almost \$1.8 million and with the current economic conditions, particularly at the state funding level, it's important that everyone is aware of what is going to be needed in the upcoming budget process. She stated that there probably will not be enough in next year's fund balance to be in that same situation; that means either additional revenues or less in expenses.

In the Maintenance Committee report, Mr. Michael, chairman, told the board that in order to have Carrier provide a bid on some options for the school system, the committee needs a three-year history on maintenance expenses; he will get together with Janet Wiles, Budget Director, to collect that information and have it available for the next Maintenance Committee meeting which will be scheduled for sometime in mid-January. Mr. Michael then asked Mr. Denton about the status of the roof on Cornersville High School; Mr. Denton said the job is finished, with the exception of the gutter and the final walk-through. Mr. Michael said that during the recent maintenance committee meeting members suggested when scheduling jobs in the future, time constraints should be worked into contracts. Ms. Tears, in referring to the Carrier issue, asked about the status of the school system's maintenance personnel who are currently employed as HVAC repairmen should the HVAC maintenance be outsourced to Carrier. Mr. Michael answered that at this point the committee is only gathering information and trying to learn what the system is spending in maintenance and how we compare to what other people are paying for the same work. He said the board has to consider looking at different ways of doing business, and look at the options of whether what is spent on support personnel is in line with what services can be provided somewhere else. Mr. Wilkerson added that also under consideration are the reoccurring increases in salaries and benefits, especially insurance, and the fluctuating gas prices. He believes that should be an issue when making comparisons when considering outsourcing services. Ms. Gold pointed out that there are different

levels of service that may be contracted. Whether maintaining equipment where there was a set annual fee versus calling in different contracted people when a piece of equipment needed repair; that would be different than overall maintenance of the schools, which might still be handled separately. Mr. Michael concluded that the way of doing business in the past won't take the system where it wants to go, so discussions must be held to question how to be more efficient, more productive, and cut costs without sacrificing any type of service; to do that, information has to be gathered from outside sources in order to make comparisons. Ms. Gold stated that a request for information has been submitted to Ms. Wiles asking for financial information from maintenance in order to make those comparisons.

Under new business, Ms. Tears distributed the Annual Agenda – Progress County Board of Education outlining month-by-month goals for the board.

Ms. Gold suggested the January board meeting be changed from January 8, 2009, to the following Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Keny made the motion to move the meeting to the 15th; Mr. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

In looking at the utility dollars form (see attached) prepared by Debbie Montgomery, Accounts Payable, Mr. Tietgens asked that Forrest School be contacted to confirm the sprinkler system has been turned off during this wet season.

Mr. Denton commented that several teachers have approached him about the new technology, expressing their gratitude for the new projectors and computers they've received.

In the Director's report, Dr. Curtis pointed out the handouts for the GASB45 and grants in which we have applied for and are currently applying for. He said he is continually establishing Administrative Procedures and is implementing each as quickly as possible. He has solicited budget requests for academic needs from principals and will meet next month with faculties to get their input on needs for their schools. Dr. Curtis told the board he will begin meeting monthly with bus drivers, as well as a monthly Director's Advisory Council meeting consisting of students from each school. He told the board about his former school, Hampshire Unit School, being among the top schools in the nation in a recent US News and World Report; "I promise you, Marshall County can be in the top 10 in this state

and be nationally recognized before we're through here," he said. "We have a potential opportunity here to be very successful in how we're perceived, not only across our state but across the nation. That's what we're going to work toward, is getting that national recognition, not just state."

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Tears, Chairman

Dr. Stan Curtis, Director