

February 12, 2009

The Marshall County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room at Jones School.

Members present were Ann Tears, Mike Keny, Delinda Owens, Mark Wilkerson, Curt Denton, Kristen Gold, Craig Michael, and Randy Perryman. Todd Tietgens was absent.

After the prayer, students from Lewisburg Middle School led the pledge and performed the National Anthem, followed by a PowerPoint presentation focusing on various aspects of the school.

To open the meeting, Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve the evening's agenda. Mr. Perryman seconded the motion and the motion passed 8-0.

Ms. Owens made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2009, meeting. Mr. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed 8-0.

No MCEA Report was presented.

Mr. Perryman made the motion to approve Lewisburg Water and Wastewater's request of the board to grant an easement 20 feet in width and approximately 925 feet in length running parallel to Newtown Road in Cornersville (see attached), crossing the Cornersville Elementary School property, which will allow Lewisburg Water and Wastewater to run a transmission line to the top of the hill on McDaniel Hollow Road where a water storage tank will be built. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. In discussion, Kenneth Carr, Lewisburg Water and Wastewater Superintendent, told the board Lewisburg Water and Wastewater's attorneys will draw it up, the engineers will do the survey, and grass will be replaced. Ms. Owens asked Mr. Carr if, while putting in the easement, workers will be crossing the driveway, and if so, will they bore under the drive or cut the drive. Mr. Carr responded that they would be crossing the drive, and it would be cut and the drive would be replaced with similar material. Mr. Denton asked if the drive could be replaced with concrete since busses will pass over it; Mr. Carr said that would not be a problem. Ms. Owens stated she had a concern with the fact that Lewisburg Water and Wastewater sells water to the Fairview Utility District and Mr. Carr had not mentioned that. Mr. Carr explained the Fairview Utility District, a utility district of northern Giles County, approached Lewisburg Water and Wastewater in 2007 asking if they would provide water to them down 31A in Cornersville. "The reason they wanted water was they had a tank at Brick Church that they had to service...therefore, they needed an alternative water source." Once the Brick Church tank had been repaired and replaced and the county

remained tapped on to the tank's line, Mr. Carr said this would give Marshall County an alternative water source should the need arise. Mr. Carr went on to say Fairview Utility District asked if Marshall County would be willing to sell them water should they build additional lines coming in from Roberson Fork. Mr. Carr said Lewisburg Water and Wastewater has an agreement with Fairview Utility District, of the northern Giles County utility board, to purchase a minimum of 25,000 gallons of water a day from the local utility as a way to flush the line to keep water quality up. Mr. Denton asked if supplying water to Fairview would endanger Marshall County's water supply should a drought occur; Mr. Carr said that based on the Duck River Agency Technical Advisory Committee, "there's enough water in Normandy and the Duck River to supply the demands through 2025, assuming normal growth. Duck River Agency has hired an engineer to come in to do a long-range water supply plan, so we're looking at that from a long-range standpoint." Looking at the map included with the request, it indicated the pump station would be built on school property, a request which was turned down at a previous board meeting; Mr. Carr stated the map was pulled from the original plan, and the pumping station would not be located on Cornersville Elementary School property, but on land donated by William McKibbon. The motion to approve the request passed 8-0.

Mr. Keny made a motion to approve the supplements (see attached). Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. Mr. Denton questioned why LMS submitted a request for a supplement for assistants when "there's no availability to approve these." Mr. Michael stated the board approved supplements on 8/14/08, "and what Mr. Denton says is true. There's a different amount on some of these other than what's been approved by the board on 8/14/08." Ms. Tears questioned if the assistant coaches on Cornersville High School's request are volunteers. Janet Wiles, Budget Director for the Marshall County School System, stated these supplements were in the newly-negotiated contract; "That's why we're having to add them. Because we were in negotiations, those were supplements that we had never had approved. The board approved these in the negotiated contract. Those supplements are listed in the contract, and we did not have those prior to the contract." She explained that since the supplements are in the contract, these positions were made available to be paid. "That's why they weren't approved in August, because we had never had them in our supplement schedule before." Ms. Wiles went on to say most of the assistants were volunteers, but since supplements were included in the newly-negotiated contract principals asked if the assistants could be paid. The motion passed 8-0.

Ms. Tears, chairman of the policy committee, made a motion to individually approve the changes to the following policies (see attached) which were approved by the policy committee in the January 22 committee meeting: Policy

5.110, Compensation Guides & Contracts; Policy 6.303, Interrogations & Searches; Policy 6.309, Zero Tolerance Offenses; Policy 6.312, Use of Personal Communication Devices by Students; Policy 6.313, Discipline Procedures; Policy 6.316, Suspension/Expulsion/Remand; Policy 6.502, Foreign Exchange Students. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. To clarify a question about the carry-over of a maximum of ten vacation days, Ms. Wiles informed the board that pertains only to 12-month employees and non-certified employees who earn vacation days (teachers do not earn vacation days; their vacation days are included in their calendar). In reference to the dates indicated on the policy (May 31, 2001-June 20, 2007), Ms. Wiles said, "In the past before that 2001 date, people could carry all of their vacation forward. We had people with over 100 days of vacation accrued, and then when they left they got paid. Mr. Pierce stopped that (in June 2001) and you couldn't carry any vacation days forward; they could carry forward the days they had already accumulated, but nobody could earn additional." In June of 2008, the board voted to allow just ten days be carried over into the next year to allow employees to take vacation in July; the maximum that could be carried over: the greater number if someone had days prior to 2001 or ten. Ms. Wiles will provide a list before the next budget committee meeting of names of those who have carried over vacation days, so that may be factored into the budget. Those in favor of approving Policy 5.110 passed 8-0. The board had previously asked by the board to revisit Policy 6.303 concerning Interrogations and Searches; Ms. Tears explained she had spoken with Mr. Mosely with TSBA (concerning lines 9-11) and he said that since the segment was concerning the code of conduct, it was a civil issue and not criminal, so it was fine for the statement to be in the policy. Mr. Keny had a concern about lines 17-19; Ms. Tears said Mr. Mosely said it was fine to keep in "The principal shall first attempt to notify the parent(s)..." Mr. Denton responded he had posed the same question during the policy committee meeting; he was told the principal could spend all day attempting to reach a parent or guardian, therefore, putting "shall" attempt resolved that issue. Concerning lines 11-12 on the second page concerning posting notices through schools about lockers and other storage areas on school property being subject to search, Assistant Director of Schools Roy Dukes is in the process of obtaining signs to place in the schools. Ms. Tears made a motion to accept Policy 6.303; Ms. Owens seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-1, with Mr. Keny voting no. Ms. Owens made a motion to accept the changes to Policy 6.309; Mr. Denton seconded the motion. In discussion, Ms. Tears clarified that if any dangerous weapons (including a box cutter, which had been questioned) were turned into the office before discovery, the Zero Tolerance policy would not be enforced against the student. Mr. Wilkerson made the motion to amend the policy to include the words "as soon as possible" inserted into the section of this policy about the notification of the student's parent or guardian; Mr. Keny seconded the motion to amend. Mr. Michael suggested

inviting students, teachers and principals to review policies to “improve our performance, shorten our time, and improve our effectiveness” prior to approving policies. Ms. Tears mentioned that SROs attended the recent Policy Committee meeting to provide information. The motion to approve this policy with changes passed 8-0. In discussion concerning the policy concerning cell phone infractions, Ms. Gold stated a parent had approached her about the proposed changes to the policy and suggested the board have it reviewed by legal counsel before implementing. Ms. Tears said she had been contacted by a principal who said the policy is “basically a joke” because they take up the phone, have in-school suspension, give the phone back and the student then violates the policy again, so the Policy Committee made these changes (which is the Maury County School Board’s policy). Ms. Gold said she’s not opposed to the policy, but just felt it should be reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Keny made the motion to pull the policy and send back to the Policy Committee for review; Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0. Dr. Curtis will contact principals to insure they are following the current cell phone policy. Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve Policy 6.313. Mr. Keny seconded the motion and the motion passed 8-0. In discussion on Policy 6.316, Mr. Wilkerson urged Dr. Curtis reemphasize to the principals and assistant principals number two under “Procedures for In-School Suspension and Expulsion,” which reads “Upon suspension/expulsion of any student (in-school suspension in excess of one (1) day), the principal shall make an immediate attempt to contact the parent or guardian to inform them of the suspension/expulsion. The student shall not be sent home before the end of the school day unless the parent or guardian has been contacted.” Mr. Michael suggested with the next meeting of the Student Advisory Council, have the group review the In-School Suspension policy; Dr. Curtis agreed. Ms. Tears made the motion to approve this policy; Mr. Perryman seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0. Ms. Tears made the motion to approve Policy 6.502. Ms. Owens seconded the motion and the motion passed 8-0. Because not all members were present for the vote, the policies addressed during the board meeting will be brought before the board in March for a second reading (Board Policy #1.600).

Next on the agenda was the approval to accept Waste Management’s offer of donating funds for a message board for Lewisburg Middle School; Waste Management’s only request is to be allowed exclusive sponsorship (with the company’s name imprinted on the sign) for a ten-year period. Mr. Wilkerson made the motion to accept the offer; Mr. Keny seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Keny asked LMS principal Randy Hubbell, who was in attendance to answer questions, if the picture depicted in the request was accurate; Mr. Hubbell said yes. Mr. Wilkerson’s concern was with the ten-year period request. Mr. Denton’s concern was the fact that a sign bearing the Waste Management

name will be on a building in which a meeting was held for citizens to protest Waste Management. "There are a bunch of people in the county who don't agree with Waste Management," Mr. Denton said. "Now, if they want to make a monetary donation (so they can get the tax write-off) to the school and let us spend it how we want to, and *then* we buy a sign, I'd be all for that. But I just can't see putting their name on a sign that's going to be on the front of one of our buildings." In response, Mr. Hubbell pointed out the county accepted money from Waste Management in support of the school's softball program and put a sign up behind the building in which the aforementioned community meeting was held. Mr. Denton said he didn't approve of that, either. Mr. Denton asked Mr. Hubbell if Waste Management would donate the funds without putting their name on the sign; Mr. Hubbell stated, "I doubt it." Mr. Michael said a building committee meeting is scheduled for the following week; the electronic message board could be discussed during that time. Mr. Wilkerson rescinded his original motion to accept the donation. Mr. Keny made the motion to refer the issue to the building committee, then bring it back to the board during a special called meeting for a vote. Mr. Denton seconded the motion, and the motion passed 8-0.

The following were presented in the consent agenda: the Marshall County High School baseball team to have an overnight stay in Grundy County on 4/24/09 for a tournament; Marshall County High School Senior Trip to Six Flags, Kentucky Kingdom, in Louisville, Kentucky, on 5/8/09. Mr. Keny made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the second by Ms. Owens. The motion passed 8-0.

In the Budget Committee report, Ms. Gold distributed an updated budget calendar, which contained completed dates on "Develop Needs Assessment" and "Review Needs Assessment." Ms. Gold stated that in the next Budget Committee meeting (February 24 at 5:00 p.m.), the committee will "review the recommendations for Dr. Curtis and his staff of the needs assessment listings and ideas for potential budget cuts." She also pointed out that the committee will review the status of any negotiable items; members of the negotiating team were invited to be present at the Budget Committee meeting to discuss these items. After discussion, it was determined a Special Called Meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m., to address the issue of the Waste Management sign at LMS, followed immediately by a Budget Committee meeting.

Ms. Tears scheduled a Policy Committee meeting for Wednesday, February 18 at 5:00 p.m.

In the Transportation Committee report, Mr. Denton said the Transportation Committee met on January 22, 2009. Committee members discussed the miles travelled and the fuel used by the buses during the month of December. Mr. Denton said the transportation department is working on getting more accurate

information regarding mileage and fuel, and Glenn Ezell, Supervisor of Transportation, is working on bus specs for future bus purchases. He stated that Mitchell Byrd, Human Resources Director, has introduced new forms which are now used to better record fuel usage in vans and Maintenance Department vehicles. In the past, fuel usage had not been recorded for the vans, which made it appear as though the buses were using all the fuel. Mr. Denton said a new Administrative Procedure is now being used regarding field trips; field trips will be done (for drivers) on a rotational basis by seniority. The usage of spare buses was discussed at the recent meeting; an Administrative Procedure was developed stating that no spare bus will be used for a trip travelling more than 100 miles. Edulog was on-site the previous week providing training; Suzanne Ingram, Technology Supervisor, was on hand to give a report. Ms. Ingram stated that the Transportation Department is currently entering routes and runs into the system. Ms. Ingram told the board that as soon as Beth Isley, Transportation Secretary, gets closer to finishing what she has to do to enter the information, she would like for the board members to see a demonstration of the system. Mr. Denton asked if there is a timeline as to when the system will be in use. Ms. Ingram said the system will be functioning before the end of this school year, but she's not sure when. Mr. Michael asked for an estimate of when the board could get a cost savings with this system; Ms. Ingram said it would have to come from Mr. Ezell after all the data (runs, stops, students) is entered into the system. Ms. Ingram said she would sit down with Dr. Curtis and Mr. Ezell to determine a timeline and cost.

Mr. Keny asked that when an Administrative Procedure is issued, he would like the board to get feedback from those affected by the procedure to see how it's working from their perspective. He asked if the Administrative Procedure put in place about bus driver seniority would affect the coaches in the minor sports who drive their teams to competitions. Mr. Denton said that issue had only been brought up in discussions during a Transportation Committee meeting, but nothing had ever been implemented. "The only difference is," Mr. Denton said, "they're going to have to keep up with their mileage" where they didn't have to before, but the coaches are still allowed to drive.

Under new business, Mr. Keny requested that for the next school year put some procedures in place to appoint some [middle school and high school] students as ex officio school board members to attend work sessions, and provide feedback from a student's perspective. He then thanked Ms. Owens for her suggestion to tour the county's schools. He thanked school administrators and teachers for their lists; "We're not going to make everybody happy, of course. But at least it's a start, and I think we have a better understanding of a lot of issues."

Mr. Keny then referred back to an issue discussed during the 2/9/09 work session: moving sports practices from fourth block to after school. "I would like to see us put a timeline on that and bring this to a vote in March. I don't think we ought to leave people twisting in the wind as to how we're going to address that issue." Mr. Perryman asked if the "six assemblies" could also be included in the March meeting; "I don't think six assemblies per school year is enough." Mr. Denton made a motion to keep extracurricular activities during fourth block and not limit schools to only six assemblies a year until Dr. Curtis can come back to the board with a more detailed plan; Mr. Michael seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Wilkerson questioned if the motion meant leaving things as they were before "the letter" went out. Mr. Denton: "Exactly. Then we'll look at his (Dr. Curtis) plan when he brings it in." Mr. Keny: "I would be for whatever we do if it's for the next school year; the vote we take is what we're going to do for 2009-2010." Ms. Gold agreed that a plan needed to be formulated, and that possibly there were some adjustments that could be made next year to move the system towards addressing academic needs; "I don't know if a vote is in place or just to pursue what Mr. Keny suggested that we try to get a plan together, see what changes might be implemented, and then discuss that within the next month or whatever the appropriate timeline is." The roll call vote went as follows:

Mr. Keny	Yes	Mr. Denton	Yes
Ms. Owens	Yes	Ms. Gold	No
Mr. Wilkerson	Yes	Mr. Michael	Yes
Ms. Tears	Yes	Mr. Perryman	Yes

The motion passed 7-1.

Mr. Denton then congratulated the girls' basketball teams from Cornersville, Forrest and MCHS for making it to the District tournaments.

In a follow-up concerning the school tours, Mr. Denton made a motion that those visits be treated as [separate] work sessions since they were advertised and open to the public, therefore, allowing school board members to be paid to help compensate travel expenses. Mr. Perryman seconded the motion. Mr. Keny suggested it be treated as one visit instead of counting each school. Mr. Michael pointed out that many of those attending work sessions have to take off from work with no pay; "I think we should be sensitive to that." The roll call vote went as follows:

Mr. Perryman	Yes	Ms. Tears	Yes
Mr. Michael	Yes	Mr. Wilkerson	No
Ms. Gold	No	Ms. Owens	Yes
Mr. Denton	Yes	Mr. Keny	No

The motion passed 5-3.

Mr. Wilkerson then told the board that the FRN met in Washington, D.C., early this month to discuss the stimulus package. Mr. Wilkerson, a member of that board, urged the Board of Education to attend the upcoming TSBA Day on the Hill slated for February 24, to speak with their representatives. "You [can] get a lot of networking done with people at the state level and with the TSBA to see exactly what they do for us."

Ms. Tears thanked the many members of the County Commission who were in the audience, and on behalf of the School Board members she thanked the schools for the many gifts of appreciation they have presented for School Board Appreciation Week.

Becky Hill, Supervisor of Elementary Instruction for the school system, told the board about the upcoming SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation for the district. She explained that the board members will be interviewed during the accreditation process (March 9 at 11:00 a.m.; alternate interview is March 11 at 8:00 a.m.), SACS members will tour as-yet-to-be-named schools on March 10, and an exit report will be issued on March 11 at 3:00 at the Central Office. A "study session" will be held with board members at the start of the February 24th Special Called Meeting.

Mr. Michael stated, "So we can get this behind us and move forward," he made a motion to delete #4 on the "Timeline of Director's Inappropriate Actions" and vote, by roll call, to place item #3 in Dr. Curtis's personnel file. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. Item #3 reads as follows: "Dr. Curtis has also illustrated unprofessional conduct in issuing in writing to principals a threatening statement and I quote, 'I have observed for eight months. If you cannot abide by these requirements, then please resign or retire and do not force me to reassign you.' Intimidation is not condoned by the M.C.B.E." Mr. Michael went on to say, "The terminology concerns me greatly. I want the minutes to make a note of the concern for the increased liability that such written statements expose both the board and the taxpayer to." "We hate to keep bringing this up," Mr. Denton said, "but we have a formality that we have to go through." The roll call vote went as follows:

Mr. Perryman	Yes	Ms. Tears	Yes
Mr. Michael	Yes	Mr. Wilkerson	No
Ms. Gold	No	Ms. Owens	Yes
Mr. Denton	Yes	Mr. Keny	No

The motion passed 5-3.

Ms. Tears reminded board members to complete the “Marshall County School District Code of Ethics Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement” and return it to Ms. Rhonda Poole.

Earlier in the day a bid opening was held at the Central Office to replace a 25-year-old AC unit at Forrest School; in the Director’s Report, Dr. Curtis distributed the results of the bid opening (see attached) for the purpose of approving the low bid to Lewisburg Plumbing and Heating (\$18,400). The only other bid submitted was by Lawrence Brothers, bidding \$18,536. Mr. Keny made a motion to accept the lowest bid, and Mr. Perryman seconded the motion. In discussions, Mr. Michael stated, “I would just like to suggest that we really give some consideration to not just blindly following the lowest bid.” Mr. Denton agreed, adding, “It just so happens both of these companies are great companies.” Mr. Michael agreed. The motion to accept the low bid passed 8-0.

Dr. Curtis said he is continually establishing Administrative Procedures and receiving input on those procedures. He also gave out a grant update and a “substitute” list which showed the individual schools, how many teachers are assigned to those schools, the number of days they have missed, and how much substitutes have been paid to fill in for the teachers (this information was previously requested). Dr. Curtis stated he has finished attending each school’s faculty meeting and will have a list of academic needs ready for the next Budget Committee meeting scheduled for February 24. He announced that this year’s graduation dates are Cornersville High School, Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.; Marshall County High School, Friday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.; and Forrest High School, Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Curtis told the board that he and Ms. Ingram have been invited by ENA, our school system’s internet service provider, to Elkhart, Indiana, in April to tour a technology high school, a school in which everything is technology (including textbooks); ENA is paying for the trip, so there’s no cost to the school system. He will report back to the board on the trip.

Dr. Curtis stated that there had been some discussion about moving the regular board meetings to 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:30. Mr. Keny said he doesn’t get off from work until 6:00 p.m. Mr. Michael made a motion to change the regular board meetings to 6:00 p.m.; Ms. Tears seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

Dr. Curtis informed the board he had scheduled to take his son to the SEC tournament next month, which falls on the date of the March 12 board meeting. Mr. Michael made a motion to move the March board meeting from the 12th to March 19th; Mr. Denton seconded the motion and the motion passed 8-0.

In reference to the grant information sheet previously distributed, Mr. Keny stated that the board should “wrap our hands around” the grants, especially the Long Distance Learning grant which could “open a lot of doors for us,” particularly in the north and south ends of the county. Dr. Curtis mentioned that he learned that the Workforce Development Board has a grant to put two interventionists in the school system; he said he spoke with Mrs. Aldridge (grants) about applying for this grant.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Tears, Chairman

Dr. Stan Curtis, Director