

March 19, 2009

The Marshall County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 4:00 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, Cornersville High School teacher Vicky Carlton introduced CVHS students Morgan Carroll and Kristen Fagan who gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their school.

To open the meeting, Chairman Tears pulled from the agenda "Presentation by Instructional Facilitators" and from Section 3 (Approve Policy Changes) policy #6.312. Mr. Michael pulled the "Building/Maintenance Committee Report" and Mr. Denton pulled "Transportation Committee Report" from the agenda. Mr. Perryman made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes; Mr. Keny seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9-0.

Dr. Curtis presented certificates to the top three finishers in the MCEA County-wide Spelling Bee: 1st place, John Collyer; 2nd place (and 12th in Regional competition), Sophie Raffo; and 3rd place, Christian Braden. He then honored the county's Building and System Teachers of the Year: Lisa Robertson, Alice White, Eric Crabtree, Vicky Carlton, Laura Stacey, Cindy Gabard, Jerry Holt, Kyle Stacey, Jeanne Wiles, Dickie Adkins, Kim Anderson, Todd Campbell, Nancy Cheatham, Kathy Demumbreum, Trina Blalock, and Jill Karby.

Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2009, meeting, and the February 24, 2009, special called session. Ms. Owens seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

Colin Beatty, president of the Marshall County Education Association, presented the MCEA report. He stated that negotiations began March 17, and the teams will meet again on April 7. He went on to say the new technology is being used in the classroom and it has made a huge difference. Issues with software updates are being worked through and some training may be needed. He asked Dr. Curtis to address the Administrative Procedures concerning cheating. Dr. Curtis explained that the new procedures are designed to make it more difficult for students to fail

by giving them alternative assignments so they still have to do the work. "We feel that zeros really put a child below being able to come out of something, or being able to make up the grade." He went on to say that often zeros are based more on responsibility than on skill set. Mr. Beatty concluded the MCEA Report by congratulating the Spelling Bee winners and the Science Fair winners.

Next on the agenda, Denise Massey addressed the board concerning issues on the bus her children ride; some issues date back to October or November of 2008. She stated she has talked with both Transportation Supervisor Glenn Ezell and Assistant Director of Schools Roy Dukes but she has not seen any results. She said her children have been written up twice on the bus and she had no problem with that but she feels they are being treated unfairly on the bus. She told the board she has driven behind the bus on occasion and the issues her children were written up for still continue. She believes the bus driver has an issue with her children, including taking away her children's Ipod, which Ms. Massey did not realize was against board policy; she doesn't understand why students can listen to Ipods while traveling to sporting events but not when riding to school. Mr. Wilkerson asked Dr. Curtis if he was aware of the situation; he said he was and Mr. Dukes viewed the video and felt things were handled appropriately. Mr. Michael asked if he understood correctly that two of the police reports, provided by Ms. Massey for the board meeting, were filed by the bus driver; Mr. Ezell stated the sheriff's department had been notified to be "out in that area" in case problems occurred. Ms. Massey said the police had been called because "they was told there was going to be problems with us." Mr. Michael questioned the process of communication between the bus driver and transportation department. Mr. Dukes responded that the bus driver reports any misbehavior on the bus to the principal and the principal deals with it from that point. "If there are extenuating circumstances, then the bus driver's supervisor will let us know and will let the principal know," Mr. Dukes said. Ms. Massey said she wanted a meeting between Mr. Ezell, Mr. Dukes, and Wayne (bus driver). Ms. Tears referred the issue back to Dr. Curtis for resolution and to create a "paper trail" if such an issue arises in the future.

Under the section "Approve Federal Amendments", Lisa Ventura, Supervisor of Special Education, explained to the board that her department would like to move money from "Contracts With Private Agencies" into "Other Contracted Services" and "Instructional Supplies & Materials" (see attached) in order to purchase needed instructional materials for her pre-k classroom. Mr. Keny made the

motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

Ms. Tears, chairman of the policy committee, told the board that during the recent policy committee meeting, committee members approved Policy #5.403, Drug & Alcohol Testing for Employees, and Policy #2.804, Expenses and Reimbursements. Ms. Tears said that Janet Wiles, Budget Director, had checked with the legal department and learned that the noted changes are permitted on policy 5.403. The policy committee recommends the board pass these two policies; Mr. Denton made the motion to approve the policies, and Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0. Ms. Tears went on to say policies (see attached) #5.110, Compensation Guides & Contracts; #6.303, Interrogations and Searches; #6.309, Zero Tolerance Offenses; #6.313, Discipline Procedures; #6.316, Suspension/Expulsion/Remand; and #6.502, Foreign Exchange Students were passed by the board on first reading at the February 12, 2009, meeting; she stated that the policy committee recommends passing these policies on second reading. Mr. Perryman made the motion to approve the second reading, and Ms. Owens seconded the motion. Mr. Keny wanted it noted that he would vote to approve all policies with the exception of #6.303, Interrogations and Searches. The motion to approve policies on the second reading passed 9-0.

The only item under "Approve Supplement" was to add Crystal Darnell, Brandon Hollingsworth, and Jim Delmonico to the Forrest School supplement list. Darnell and Hollingsworth will be assisting middle school softball with a supplement of \$500 each, and Mr. Delmonico will assist middle school baseball with a supplement of \$1,000. Mr. Keny made the motion to approve the supplement, and Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

The following were presented in the consent agenda: Marshall County High School to attend FCCLA State Meeting in Nashville on 4/7-9/09; MCHS Beta Club, Cornersville Beta Club and Forrest School Beta Club to attend State Beta Club Convention 4/13-15/09; MCHS DECA to attend State Conference in Franklin on 3/8-10/09; LMS Chorus to perform in the Music in the Parks Choral Festival in Pigeon Forge 5/1-2/09; Forrest FFA to attend State FFA Convention in Gatlinburg 3/28 thru 4/1/09; and Cornersville FBLA to attend FBLA Conference in Chattanooga 4/1-4/09. Ms. Tears made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Mr. Tietgens seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

The following surplus items were presented for disposal: Maintenance – scrap metals and old radiators; Food Service – old steamer and steam kettle. Mr. Denton made a motion to approve disposal of the surplus items, and Ms. Gold seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Michael, in referencing the steamer and kettle, asked if there are records indicating the purchase date and how many years of use the system has received from those items. Dr. Curtis stated he will check with maintenance and food service for the records. The motion passed 9-0.

In addressing the mowing bids, Mr. Denton indicated that two of the businesses listed on the bid sheet (see attached) began mowing for the school system last year and were unable to provide the service as needed: Tom’s Lawn Care (lowest bid) and R & R Lawncare (next to lowest bid). Since there wasn’t a great difference in the bids of the lowest three, Mr. Perryman made a motion to approve the third from lowest bid, Jed’s Lawn Care, and Mr. Denton seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Michael asked how many cuttings are estimated; Mr. Denton answered 16. Mr. Michael brought up the fact that previous discussions indicated considering equipment lists and performance bonds from those winning mowing contracts, which would “help eliminate some of the suppliers that don’t have the equipment, don’t have the help. I don’t understand why we have to do this so late.” The roll call vote to accept Jed’s Lawn Care bid was as follows:

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

The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Denton abstaining.

Under the subject of bus bids (see attached), Transportation Supervisor Glenn Ezell was joined by a representative from Mid South/Thomas to answer questions from the board; the school system plans to purchase two 90-passenger buses and one special education bus. Mr. Ezell stated the Mid South/Thomas bus provided for inspection showed improvements where the bus had problems before. He went on to say the problems addressed by the company were problems the mechanics had issues with during the past, such as the engine shutting down while on the road, breaker and wiring problems, lack of insulation, etc. Mr. Ezell stated the system is trading in three 78-passenger buses and one special education bus and Mid South/Thomas will credit Marshall County \$2,800 per bus. Mr. Denton brought up the issue that the buses due to trade in next year “have a

ton more miles on them than the buses we're trading in. We can get two more years out of the buses we're trading in and have less miles." Mr. Denton went on to explain that current law says buses 15 years old with 150,000 miles or less can be used two more years; the Mid South/Thomas representative added, "or up until they hit over 150,000, whichever's first." Dr. Curtis said it's possible to keep the bus with 130,000 miles and trade in the newer bus that's in excess of 150,000 miles. Board members asked about when the buses scheduled to be traded were put into service; Mr. Ezell said he would provide dates. Mr. Keny questioned if the school system is required to trade in buses or if they could be kept for other purposes; Mr. Denton said perhaps the small bus could be used to transport a baseball team to competition, instead of using a spare bus. As board members were trying to determine which buses, if any, to trade in, Mr. Wilkerson asked if the issue could be referred back to the transportation committee to work out details. Mr. Michael then questioned why "we wait so late" to bid buses. Ms. Owens asked the Mid South/Thomas representative how long the bid prices are good; he answered until the company receives a price increase notice. Mr. Michael then asked why the system is trading in 78-passenger buses for 90-passenger buses when the number of students has not increased; Mr. Ezell stated that has been the practice in the past to anticipate for future growth. Per Mr. Michael's request, Mr. Ezell will provide bus capacity numbers to the board. Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve the Mid South/Thomas bids on the 2009 buses to lock in the prices and send the issue back to the transportation committee to work out details, and Ms. Owens seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

Ms. Gold informed the board that in a recent budget committee meeting, committee members reviewed and approved a resolution (see attached) that needs to be approved by the board pending approval by the county commission. The resolution shows funds received from the state for Career Ladder under Safe Schools Act and teacher money raises which came from the state that need to be added to the budget under the General Purpose fund. Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the resolution pending the county commission's approval. Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9-0. Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the detailed back-up to the resolution (see attached); Mr. Wilkerson seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9-0.

In the Budget Committee report, Ms. Gold, Chairman, reported that the Budget Committee met on March 17, 2009, to review the year-to-date summary financial

statement for February (see attached). The committee also reviewed the Food Service equipment needs; Ms. Gold stated that Food Service has shown a need for two items (see attached) and there is money in the capital outlay budget of the current budget funds to cover the purchases. She went on to state that it has been suggested the items be submitted together as a bid to see if it will affect the price. Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to consolidate the two items as one bid; Ms. Owens seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9-0. Ms. Gold stated that during their recent meeting, the budget committee reviewed the proposed additions and deletions from the current year budget in preparation for drafting the '09-10 budget. The next Budget Committee meeting is set for Tuesday, April 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Tears stated the Policy Committee met on February 18 and again on March 17. The committee checked with legal services regarding Policy #6.312, Use of Personal Communication Devices by Students, and the proposed changes recommended by the Policy Committee are permitted. The committee is proposing additional changes to the policy and will submit those changes at the April board meeting. The committee reviewed Section 6 ("Student") of the policies and pulled several for discussion at the committee's next meeting. Section 5 ("Personnel") will be reviewed during the next Policy Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Michael encouraged the Policy Committee to look closely at Ipods when considering the "Use of Personal Communication Devices by Students" policy. Ms. Tears informed the board, and the Budget Committee, that Mr. Dukes has been checking on prices for the 149 signs required for posting throughout the schools; the cost is roughly \$6,853.55. "Of course, it may have to be bid." Mr. Michael suggested sponsors for the signs; Dr. Curtis said he would check into it.

Mr. Denton scheduled a Transportation Committee meeting for Monday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m.; Mr. Michael scheduled a Building/Maintenance Committee meeting for Monday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Under new business, Ms. Tears made a motion to keep attorney Chuck Cagle under retainer; Mr. Michael seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9-0.

In the Director's report, Dr. Curtis declared that buses will be bid in November of 2009, and bids for mowing will take place in February of 2010. He then asked the board for approval to allow him to seek a half-million-dollar RUS Grant (Distance Learning). Nancy Aldridge, Grant Writer for the school system, told the board

that if awarded the grant, the school system could receive \$271,122. Mr. Wilkerson made a motion to allow Dr. Curtis to seek the grant; Mr. Michael seconded the motion, and the motion passed 9-0. Mr. Keny invited Ms. Aldridge to make a brief presentation at the April board meeting regarding the grant; she accepted.

Ms. Gold congratulated the district on being recommended for District Accreditation by the SACS CASI committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Tears, Chairman

Dr. Stan Curtis, Director