



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Final

Education Committee

Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Chairperson

Commissioner Nick Bright, Vice Chair

Commissioner Mike Akard

Commissioner Robbie Bennett

Commissioner Brad Bowers

Commissioner Misty Davis

Commissioner Jessica Hannah

Commissioner Earl McMahan

Commissioner Steve Mikels

School Board Members (ex officio, non-voting):

Fred Goins and Erica Moore

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

12:30 PM

Heritage Middle School
3737 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy.
Maryville, TN 37804

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Heritage Middle School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chairperson Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 10 members present, and 1 absent. The Chair declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Director of Schools David Murrell; Assistant Director Jake Jones; Chief Financial Officers Troy Logan and Kristi Yates; Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke; and School Board Member Vandy Kemp. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present 10 - Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Erica Moore

Absent 1 - Commissioner Mike Akard

WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The Chair opened the meeting by recognizing Josh Tidwell the Principal at Heritage Middle Elementary School (HMS). Principal Tidwell welcomed the attendees and introduced himself and Assistant Principal Jennifer Bayola. He stated that there are 656 learners at HMS with 48 teachers and 14 instructional teaching assistants. He talked of getting back to the basics and tweaking areas of need such as clear communication with parents and seeking parent feedback. He spoke of big focus areas where procedures needed to be streamlined. Those areas consisting of: lunch period and the cafeteria, early release, restrooms, a secondary trade teacher for sixth graders, sixth grade parent night, drug and tobacco education, innovative branding with Heritage High, and CTE career paths focusing on local industries. Mr. Tidwell named several various facility improvements at HMS such as; new soccer field lights, vinyl window coverings, signage and the removal of classroom portables. He closed with commending the school board and commissioners for their continued support.

There was no action taken.

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that the agenda be set. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none opposed. The Chair declared the agenda to be set.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes2023-Apr-04](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the minutes be approved. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none opposed. The Chair declared the minutes to be approved.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

D. REPORTS.

1. Maintenance/Construction Report.

Blount County Schools Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave the maintenance/construction report that included the following system-wide projects:

UNDER CONSTRUCTION--

HMS roof repair; multi-school HVAC replacement; Townsend Elementary cooling tower replacement; Walland Elementary wheelchair lift; HHS HVAC Phase 1B; Fairview Elementary roof replacement; HHS security vestibule; HHS HVAC Phase 2; ECCA CTE, field, track, parking lot, press box, concessions, field houses; Eagleton College & Career Academy (ECCA) science class lab renovation; multi-school HVAC replacement; and HHS CTE building renovation.

CLOSE TO BID/AWARD--

William Blount (WB) Ninth Grade Academy roof repair.

FY2022-23--

HHS/WBHS turf field; SESI HVAC; HMS baseball practice field; Carpenters Middle awning; and WBHS softball food concession and restroom facility.

There was no action taken.

2. Financial Report.

Blount County Schools Chief Financial Officer Troy Logan gave the financial report. Mr. Logan spoke of four budget amendment requests for this month: 1) an increase in fund 141 for \$75,000.00 to appropriate funds for WBHS Roof Repair; 2) an increase in fund 141 for \$1,209,952.00 to appropriate funds for state summer school grant; 3) an increase in fund 146 for \$757,255.00 to appropriate second round of American Rescue Plan Stabilization Grant to support child care; and 4) an increase in BPE (Basic Education Program) funding for \$213,000.00 to appropriate funds for a safe school mass communication system.

There was no action taken.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There was none.

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Report from the Director of Schools.

Director of Schools David Murrell reported that this school year was rapidly coming to a close; district-wide testing for third thru eighth grade has finished; high schools have AP examinations to take; and high school graduations are coming up soon. The Director thanked Principal Tidwell for his excellent leadership at HMS. Mr. Murrell reminded attendees of the upcoming strategic plan and action tour on Friday, May 5, 2023, at ECCA. In closing, he briefed the Education Committee on the school district's amended proposed budget for FY2023-24.

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

School Board members Fred Goins and Erica Moore thanked the commissioners' for their support of the school system.

There was no action taken.

3. Other.

There was none.

4. Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 30, 2023 - location to be announced.

The Education Committee decided to cancel their May 30, 2023, meeting due to schools being out for summer break. The Chair announced that the Education Committee would meet on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at Eagleton College & Career Academy.

G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the meeting be adjourned. With no objection, the Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Education Committee meeting adjourned on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 1:45 p.m.