



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Education Committee

Commissioner Mike Akard
Commissioner Robbie Bennett
Commissioner Brad Bowers
Commissioner Misty Davis
Commissioner John Giles
Commissioner Jessica Hannah
Commissioner Earl McMahan
Commissioner Steve Mikels
Commissioner Dawn Reagan

Ex Officio School Members: Fred Goins and Erica Moore

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

12:30 PM

Fairview Elementary School
2130 O. Niles Ferry, Maryville 37803

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Fairview Elementary School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Commission Chair Jared Anderson called the meeting to order. There were 8 members present, with the late arrival of Commissioner Jessica Hannah, 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 Officer Kristi Yates; Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke; Family Resource Center Coordinator Kelly Roberts; Family Services Specialist Carrie Wicks; and School Board Chairman Chris Pass. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 10 - Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner John Giles, 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

ELECTION OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for nominations of the Education Committee Chairperson.

Commissioner Bowers nominated Dawn Reagan. That was seconded by Commissioner Bennett.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers that nominations cease. Hearing no objection, Chairman Anderson declared the floor closed for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken to affirm the nomination. Chairman Anderson declared Commissioner Reagan to be elected as the Chair of the Education Committee by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bennett, Bowers, Davis, Giles, Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, Goins, and Moore

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Akard

Abstain: 1 - Reagan

ELECTION OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Chairman Anderson opened the floor for nominations of the Education Committee Vice Chair.

Commissioner Bennett nominated Brad Bowers. That was seconded by Commissioner McMahan. Chairman Anderson asked if there were anymore nominations. Hearing no objection, Chairman Anderson declared the floor closed for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken to affirm the nomination. Chairman Anderson declared Commissioner Bennett to be elected as the Vice Chair of the Education Committee by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bennett, Davis, Giles, Hannah, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Goins, and Moore

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Akard

Abstain: 1 - Bowers

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2024.](#)

Attachments: [1970 M Education Committee 24-09-03 Meeting Minutes](#)

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

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

No one spoke.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

E. NEW BUSINESS.

1. School District Reports.

Director of Blount County Schools David Murrell welcomed the attendees to Fairview Elementary School, and presented BCS's first ever annual report for 2024. He encouraged feedback on future BCS annual reports. Fairview was highlighted throughout the 2024 report, Mr. Murrell noted that in 2022-23 they earned a Grade A from the TN Department of Education; were deemed a Reward School based on Federal accountability data; and they were a Level 5 School. Mr. Murrell introduced Fairview Elementary School Principal Chris Merritt who commended his staff on their accomplishments. The school will soon be celebrating 75 years. Principal Merritt introduced Dee Harner, a first grade teacher who's been at the school for 10 years. Ms. Harner introduced a third grade student who she taught in first and second grades. They briefly spoke about their experiences at Fairview Elementary School.

Mr. Murrell introduced Family Resource Center (FRC) Coordinator Kelly Roberts and Family Services Specialist Carrie Wicks, stating that FRC does more than home visits. The FRC addresses students and families non-academic barriers to learning (e.g. needs for food, health, housing, etc.). They handled over 550 referrals and provided over 375 direct services to families. Since the 2022-23 school year, over 150 extended food boxes have been given to BCS families. On November 12, 2024, they will host a free community resource fair for families. They have partnered with other city school systems to coordinate lunch and learn format classes for families. They work with families in the truancy process by holding IMPACT classes. Commissioner Giles inquired about funding. The FRC has an advisory counsel that tracks donations and spending. Commissioner Reagan inquired about the number of BCS families that are homeless. Ms. Roberts responded that there are twenty-something verified homeless families in Blount County. That led Mr. Murrell to segue into the needs caused by the devastation of Hurricane Helene, and Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke reported that 10 pallets of water and other supplies (i.e. diapers, toilet paper, etc.) were deployed to areas in need. Mr. Duke reported on the BCS facilities energy savings, specifically HVAC controls to be installed at Heritage Middle, Union Grove Middle, and Samuel Everett School of Innovation, and LED lighting.

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

School Board Chairman Pass was present but there was nothing to report.

There was no action taken.

3. Next Meeting - Friday, November 15, 2024 - location to be announced.

The Chair announced that the location of the next Education Committee meeting on Friday, November 15, 2024, would be held at Prospect Elementary School.

F. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

No one spoke.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the meeting be adjourned. The Chair declared the meeting be to adjourned. The Education Committee adjourned on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 1:25 p.m.