



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Final

Education Committee

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

12:30 PM

Mary Blount Elementary School
131 S. Old Glory Rd., Maryville 37801

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Mary Blount Elementary School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chair Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present, with the late arrival of Commissioner Jessica Hannah, and 2 members were 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; and Instructional Supervisors Amanda Vance and Jon Young. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 9 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, 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 Brad Bowers

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, 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 May 3, 2024.](#)

Attachments: [1969 M Education Committee 24-05-03 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.

There was none.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There was none.

E. NEW BUSINESS.

1. School District Reports.

Director of Blount County Schools David Murrell welcomed the attendees to Mary Blount Elementary School (MBES). He commended the school's educators, and introduced Principal Ryan Ferrell to talk about their school. MBES motto is "The B.E.A.R. Way". With 611 students currently enrolled, it is one of the largest Blount County elementary schools, and one of the largest special education schools in the county. The school boasts of top scores as an ESL (English as a Second Language) hub for that end of the county. Fifth Grader Holden Wilson and Kathy Rogers, a third grade teacher, spoke about their personal experiences at MBES. A tour of the school was offered to participants after the meeting. A Blount County Strong video was viewed.

Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave an update on the facilities. He mentioned major improvement projects that included: six schools changed from carpet to concrete, with MBE being one of them; security windows installed at the entrances of Carpenters Middle and Union Grove Middle schools, with Middlesettlements, Montvale, Townsend and Fairview Elementary schools in progress; a new roof on the gym at Walland Elementary; fresh air units installed at Middlesettlements and Montvale Elementary schools; HVAC install at Samuel Everett School of Innovation; HVAC controls at Eagleton College and Career Academy; 28 HVAC units need to be upgraded at William Blount Ninth Grade Academy (WB9th); and other projects on the William Blount campus are the softball food/restroom facility, CTE renovation, roof repair/replacement, and gym floor replacement at WB9th.

In closing, a video was shown of some BCS student testimonies.

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

School Board Member Fred Goins requested that the elementary school gyms be classified as instructional, because they are utilized in a variety of educational ways (physical education classes, after school "Friends" program, art and science fairs, etc.) and in doing so use fund 177. School Board Member Erica Moore agreed with Mr. Goins about re-classifying the gyms as instructional to free up funds for other things. She also encouraged the boards, both the Commission and Schools, to be united - "Blount County Strong".

Commissioner Akard inquired about the elementary gyms being considered instructional. Stating that if a capital expenditure qualifies for fund 177, as the gymnasiums are part of the building, they would therefore be considered capital. Ms. Moore said they would follow-up.

There was no action taken.

3. Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 1, 2024 - location to be announced.

The Chair inquired about Strategic Planning meetings at the schools. The first one to be held on Friday, November 15, 2024, more details to follow. Another will be held in May 2025 at Friendsville Elementary School, with more details to follow.

The committee discussed the location of the next Education Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, and decided it would be held at Prospect Elementary School.

There was no action taken.

F. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned. The Chair declared the meeting be to adjourned. The Education Committee adjourned on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.