



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, April 4, 2023

12:30 PM

Walland Elementary School
247 E. Millers Cove Rd., Walland, TN 37886

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Walland Elementary School in Walland, Tennessee, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chairperson Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present, and 2 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; Instructional Supervisor Jon Young; and School Board Member Vandy Kemp. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 9 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Erica Moore
- Absent** 2 - Commissioner Nick Bright, and Commissioner Jessica Hannah

WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The Chair opened the meeting by recognizing Jennifer Tipton the Principal of Walland Elementary School (WES). The Principal thanked the attendees for visiting the school. This is Ms. Tipton's first year as principal at WES. Ms. Tipton stated the current enrollment at WES is approximately 300 students, and there are 16 teachers for kindergarten through fifth grade. She boasted of the recently re-finished (polished concrete) floors in the library. She spoke of a 2-day educational field trip the fifth graders recently went on to Tremont that was generously funded by a grant from Blackberry Farms. She reported that all WES classrooms were now equipped with smart TV's, and that all their teachers have devices that cast directly to the classroom TV. She mentioned that WES would be getting an updated chairlift for the stairwell. She highlighted various family involvement events at WES such as a spring carnival funded by the PTO, a celebration of learning night at the end of the semester, and a back to school night for the upcoming new school year.

There was no action taken.

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

With no objection, the Chair declared that Mr. Jon Young would brief the committee on the sixth grade drug prevention education program, and his update would take place prior to the reports.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the agenda be set as amended to receive an update on the Drug Prevention Education Program. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes14-Mar-2023-09-34-39](#)

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

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

D. REPORTS.

The Chair recognized Jon Young the School's Instructional Supervisor to brief the committee on the drug prevention program for sixth graders. He commended the commission's and school board's support for this program. The curriculum selected was NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse), and is being used in the middle school health classes.

There was no action taken.

1. Maintenance/Construction Report.

Blount County Schools Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave the maintenance/construction report. The quad chart he presented included the following projects:

COMPLETED PROJECTS: Heritage High (HHS) soccer field lights.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: HHS Phase-1b and planetarium; Heritage Middle (HMS) roof repair; multi-school HVAC replacement; Townsend Elementary cooling tower replacement; Walland Elementary wheelchair lift; Fairview Elementary roof replacement; HHS security vestibule; HHS HVAC Phase-2; Eagleton College and Career Academy (ECCA) CTE, field house and press box; ECCA Science lab renovation; and HHS CTE renovation.

CLOSE TO BID/AWARD: William Blount (WB) Ninth Grade Academy roof repairs; synthetic turf for both high school football fields; SESI HVAC replacement units; HMS baseball practice field; Carpenters Middle sixth grade awning; WB softball concession building sewage; and WBHS CTE renovation.

There was no action taken.

2. Financial Report.

Blount County Schools Chief Financial Officer Troy Logan gave the financial report. He reported that the FY2023-24 budget was presented to the Budget Committee. He stated that they are waiting on the State to report estimated revenues for the schools and for the certified tax rate to be set. The School Board has for their consideration and approval: 1) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an agreement between the Board of Education (BOE) and the Blount County Education Association (BCEA) relating to salaries, leave, dues deductions, working conditions and grievance procedures; and 2) a budget amendment request for a State innovative schools grant award in the amount of \$4 million to be spread over three years (100% grant funded, no local match required).

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 extended an invitation to all those present to attend the fourth quarter Strategic Plan and Action Visit at ECCA on May 5, 2023. He commended the Schools Chief Financial Officers Troy Logan and Kristi Yates for presenting a balanced budget plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Mr. Murrell was excited to announce that an anonymous donation made to the schools paid for the students' daily breakfasts and lunches at five of the highest free and reduced elementary schools (Rockford, Eagleton, Lanier, Montvale and Walland).

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

The School Board Members had nothing to report.

There was no action taken.

3. Other.

Commissioner Mikels announced that the Wildwood Community Celebration Day would be held at Porter Elementary on May 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Akard mentioned the ACT 30+ Club resolutions. The Chair recognized that a Junior at HHS scored a perfect 36 on the ACT.

Commissioner Bennett announced that the Special Olympics would be held at HHS on April 12, 2023, as well as an in-school baseball game.

There was no action taken.

4. Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - location to be announced.

Commissioner Bennett suggested HMS for the next meeting venue. With no objection, the Chair declared that the next Education Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 would be held at HMS.

G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made to adjourn. The Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Education Committee meeting adjourned on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 1:11 p.m.