



# Blount County Government

359 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

## Meeting Minutes

### Education Committee

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Tuesday, December 1, 2020

12:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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<https://zoom.us/join>

Zoom Meeting ID: 942 3520 8088

#### ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met electronically via Zoom Meetings on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chairman Dodd Crowe called the meeting to order. There were 11 members present with the late arrivals of Commissioner Staci Lawhorn and Ex Officio Debbie Sudhoff. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Director of Schools Rob Britt, the Schools Fiscal Administrator Troy Logan, Blount County Schools Maintenance Foreman Terry Baldwin, and Trane Representatives. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

**Present** 9 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Dodd Crowe, Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, Commissioner Joe McCulley, Commissioner Steve Mikels, and Commissioner Dawn Reagan

#### A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Reagan, to set the agenda. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye and none opposed. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed, and the agenda was set.

#### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. Education Committee Meeting Minutes for November 4, 2020.

Attachments: [Minutes 2020-Nov-4](#)

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

#### C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

#### D. REPORTS.

**1. Maintenance/Construction Report.**

Maintenance Foreman Terry Baldwin reported that there were 189 work orders closed and 111 work orders in-progress. Mr. Baldwin's report of the various maintenance/construction projects at the schools included: Heritage Middle - installed PTAC unit in custodial office and a new 10 ton unit in office; Heritage High - installed 7.5 ton HVAC unit in weight room; Middlesettlements Elementary - installed 3 new 3 ton HVAC units in classroom and a 7.5 unit in cafeteria; Eagleton Middle - installed a 1.5 ton HVAC unit in classrooms and new LED lights in gymnasium; William Blount High - removed 2 trees at the softball stadium, added 8 LED lights in stadium, and winterized outside plumbing, irrigation, back flows, and serviced the generators; and added new Clorox 360 machines at each school.

Commissioner Reagan inquired about the broken desks in the school. Mr. Baldwin stated that the desks are repaired if they can be. If they cannot be repaired, they salvage any parts that are usable.

There was no action taken.

**2. Financial Report.**

Fiscal Administrator Troy Logan gave the financial report that included a budget amendment for the Safe Schools Grant. Mr. Logan then gave updates about 7 Capital projects - 1) the Lanier Sewer project has engaged with C2RL and have submitted the completed preliminary engineering report to East Tennessee Development District, who will combine that with the grant application and send to the Appalachian Region Commission by December 4, 2020; 2) William Blount High has completed phase 1 of the HVAC project and phase 2 is 75% complete; 3) William Blount High's science renovation project is out for bid, which opens December 11, 2020. Once the costs are evaluated, Mr. Logan will bring the budget amendment to the January 2021 County Commission meeting and Board of Education meeting; 4) Heritage High's science project is complete; 5) Heritage High has issued a purchase order for phase 1 of their HVAC project, and training and scheduling for the project began on November 30, 2020; 6) Board of Education and Mr. Britt approved of the Eagleton College and Career Academy, which is in the planning stages of gathering cost estimates and measuring the scope of work. He will bring the revised budget amendment back to the School Board and County Commission in January 2021; 7) He is also working on Fund 177- the budget and capital plans for next year.

Mr. Logan introduced Owen Nevader, a Comprehensive Solutions Leader for Trane, who presented to the Education Committee the results from the preliminary audit of District Y for Blount County Schools HVAC units, electricity and plumbing needs affiliated with energy. Trane estimates that \$750k will be saved in one year.

Mr. Nevader acknowledged Nancy McBee, who spoke on the Education Enrichment Programs that Trane offers to K-12 schools. Trane would be interested in working with the schools on developing a HVAC certification program for the CTE.

Trane recommends an investment grade audit be considered by the schools.

Commissioner Akard inquired about the LED lighting installation costs. Mr. Nevader expounded on the scope of work.

There was no action taken.

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.****F. NEW BUSINESS.**

**1. Report from the Director of Schools.**

Director Rob Britt gave an update on COVID-19 response - From November 16th thru November 30th, there have been 100 confirmed COVID-19 cases: 26 staff members and 74 students. The number of quarantined is at 434. Mr. Britt recognizes that the substitute fill rate, 74% on November 30th then 61% on December 1st, within the schools is very low compared to the average rate of 95%. Mr. Britt stated that two schools closed before Thanksgiving because of the staffing issues. Mr. Britt explained that he has revisited and updated the health and safety protocol. Schools, with a stronger focus on middle and high, are requiring face masks be worn if a distances of six feet isn't an option. He commends all staff, parents, and students for their cooperation.

The Chairman inquired more in depth about the substitute fill rate and the state guidelines. Mr. Britt stated that there are no state guidelines about what level of fill rate would require a shut down. He makes the decisions on closures based on State recommendations, reviewing the case numbers, and seeking advice from multiple health experts, including the local health department.

There was no action taken.

**2. Blount County School Board.**

School Board Member Debbie Sudhoff spoke of the ARC Grant that is due December 4th. She recommends reaching out to state and local legislatures for further support.

There was no action taken.

**3. Other.**

Commissioner Akard mentioned banners that Alcoa High School has put up honoring their academic achievers who have scored above a 30 on the ACT. Commissioner Akard suggested implementing these banners for Blount County seniors as well.

The Chairman and School Board Member Sudhoff agreed that the students should be recognized. She questioned where they should put the banners so the most people can see them.

Mrs. Sudoff suggests that the School Board will take this task on. She will give an updated report at the next meeting.

There was no action taken.

**4. Next Meeting - January 5, 2021 - location to be announced.**

The Chairman suggested that the meeting be held virtually. There was no opposition.

There was no action taken.

**G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

There was none.

**H. ADJOURNMENT.**

At 1:13 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, the Chairman declared that the Education Committee meeting be adjourned.