



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Education Committee

Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Chairwoman

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 Robby Kirkland

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

12:30 PM

Porter Elementary School
4520 Wildwood Springs Rd., Maryville, TN 37804

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Porter Elementary School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Vice Chair Nick Bright called the meeting to order. There were 6 members present and 5 absent, with the late arrivals of Commissioners Mike Akard and Jessica Hannah. The Vice 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 School Board Chair Erica Moore. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 6 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, and School Representative Robby Kirkland
- Absent** 5 - Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, and School Representative Fred Goins

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2024.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes \(49\)](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Davis, that the minutes be approved. There was no vote taken.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON AGENDA.

There was none.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There was none.

E. NEW BUSINESS.**1. School District Reports.**

The Vice Chair recognized the Director of Blount County Schools David Murrell, who welcomed the attendees to Porter Elementary School. Director Murrell commended Principal Judy Pearson and the leadership at PES for being a Level 5 school, an "A" school, and a Reward school. Principal Pearson spoke of the school's academic growth in reading and math, and about the district's need for funding the Bridge Program.

Mr. Murrell said it is a busy season for testing, i.e. TCAP for 3rd thru 8th grades, and ACT for high schoolers. He also said it is budget season too.

Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke highlighted specific district-wide projects such as the Heritage CTE renovation, turf, Carpenters Middle (CMS) awning, Eagleton College Career Academy (ECCA) HVAC controls, Walland and Friendsville Elementary gym roofs, William Blount (WB) CTE renovation and roof, Townsend and Fairview Elementary security upgrades, and the wheelchair lift at Fairview Elementary.

Chief Financial Officer Kristi Yates mentioned a few budget increases for Fund 177, and spoke about it being a challenging budget season for teacher compensation.

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

There was none.

The Vice Chair introduced the proclamations honoring the high school seniors who scored a 30 or above on the ACT. With no objection, the Vice Chair declared that the names of the Education Committee members would be added as sponsors on those proclamations. There was no objection.

3. Next Meeting on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 9:00 am at Heritage High School.

The Vice Chair announced that the next Education Committee meeting would be held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at Heritage High School. Assistant Director Jake Jones confirmed that the next BCS Strategic Planning meeting would commence prior to that.

There was no action taken.

F. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The Vice Chair declared the meeting be to adjourned. The Education Committee adjourned on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 12:45 p.m.