



# Blount County Government

359 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

## Meeting Minutes

### Education Committee

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Tuesday, November 5, 2019

12:00 PM

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

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#### ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a meeting of the Blount County Education Committee was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. at Mary Blount Elementary School in Maryville, Tennessee. Blount County Education Committee Chairman Dodd Crowe called the meeting to order. The roll call was taken by the Chairman. There were 11 present and 0 absent, with the late arrival of Commissioner Steve Mikels. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Blount County Schools Superintendent Rob Britt, Blount County Schools Fiscal Administrator Troy Logan, Blount County Schools Maintenance Foreman Terry Baldwin, School Board members: Diane Bain, Jim Compton, Robbie Kirkland and Bill Padgett, County Commission Chairman Ron French, and Amy Beth Miller of The Daily Times. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

**Present** 11 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Vice Chair Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Chairperson Dodd Crowe, Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, Commissioner Joe McCulley, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Debbie Sudhoff

#### A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Akard, to set the agenda. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

#### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2019.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes 2019-Oct-1](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, that the minutes be approved. A voice vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion so carried.

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

There was none.

#### D. REPORTS.

**1. Maintenance/Construction Report.**

Mr. Terry Baldwin gave the maintenance and construction report for various projects at the schools including: 205 work orders closed and 190 in-progress for October 2019; installed HVAC units at Union Grove Middle, William Blount High, and Heritage High schools; refinished gym floors at Heritage Middle and Porter Elementary schools; installed an outside drinking fountain at Montvale Elementary; completed a new roof on a portable building at Fairview Elementary; and a 20% completed roof project at William Blount CTE.

Commissioner Reagan inquired about the cost savings for Schools Maintenance to refinish the gym floors versus a contractor. Mr. Baldwin did not have those numbers available, and explained that it would not be a fair comparison.

There was no action taken.

**2. Financial Report.**

Mr. Troy Logan gave the financial report stating that they are a quarter of the way into the new budget year; there are no budget amendments for this month; and sales tax was up from last year.

There was no action taken.

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.****1. Discussion and Possible Action to Change the Education Committee Meeting Location and Time.**

After some discussion, and with no action taken, the Chairman declared the item handled. The Education Committee meetings will continue to be held at 12:00 p.m. with the location of the next meeting to be discussed and announced during the current meeting.

**F. NEW BUSINESS.****1. Report from Mary Blount Elementary School Principal.**

Ms. Suzanne Graves, Assistant Principal of Mary Blount Elementary, spoke of the school's achievements. They are one of the five reward schools in the county; the largest Blount County Elementary School with 610 students enrolled; and with thanks to the efforts of Leadership Blount, the first One-to-One school.

Ms. Graves expounded on being a "rewards school" - there are four categories in which the school is scored: achievement, growth, English as a Second Language (ESL) and attendance. She mentioned that because of the ESL sub-group, and being deemed an economically disadvantaged area, that they are a completely free breakfast and lunch school.

There was no action taken.

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

Director of Schools Rob Britt provided the committee with copies of the schools capacity report. This report included information, such as the district's total school capacity of 13,525 students; K-12 student enrollment as of 9/6/19 was 10,534; a ten year comparison for 2009 vs. 2019 showed percent to capacity; showing, for example, that Heritage Middle and High schools are over-capacity. A separate report showed the academic capacity of classroom space. He stated the staff while compiling the information for the reports referred to the BEP guidelines.

Commissioner Akard inquired what, if any, steps were being taken to address the over-crowding. Mr. Britt explained that a team is looking into options to align boundaries, etc. School Board Chair Debbie Sudhoff mentioned that the future Pellissippi expansion would need to be considered as well.

Commissioner Bowers inquired about re-districting and the 2020 census. Mr. Britt explained that the census may have some bearing, and the County's Data Analysis/Mapping Ray Boswell has begun efforts for plotting.

Mr. Britt gave an update on the Science Lab timetable, stating that renovations to their current space would be made; and that the HVAC renovation should begin in May 2020.

There was no action taken.

**3. Blount County School Board.**

There was no discussion or action taken.

**4. Other.**

The Chairman spoke about charter schools. States that are being targeted to consider charter schools are Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Essentially, charter schools take state funding away from the public schools. The county and city school boards could set higher standards for registering area charter schools. Mr. Britt and School Board Chair Debbie Sudhoff will discuss further, and keep the committee informed.

There was no action taken.

**5. Education Committee Meetings for 2020 (Tuesday prior to School Board meetings) - February 4, March 3, March 31, May 5, June 2, September 1, September 29, November 3, and December 1.**

There was no discussion or action taken.

**6. Next Meeting - December 3, 2019 - location to be announced.**

After some discussion, a voice vote was taken to hold the December 3, 2019, Education Committee meeting at Samuel Everett School of Innovation. Mr. Britt will confirm with the school.

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

**H. ADJOURNMENT.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Lawhorn, to adjourn. A voice vote was taken. The Chairman declared the Education Committee meeting to be adjourned at 1:04 p.m. on November 5, 2019.