



# Blount County Government

359 Court Street  
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

## Meeting Minutes

### Education Committee

---

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

12:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 433

---

#### ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a meeting of the Blount County Education Committee was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 12:00 PM in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. Education Committee Chairman Dodd Crowe called the meeting to order. The roll call was taken by the Chairman. There were 7 present and 4 absent. The Chairman declared there to be a quorum. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Rob Britt - Director of Blount County Schools; Troy Logan - Fiscal Administrator; Terry Baldwin - Maintenance Foreman; Board of Education members Diane Bain, Bill Padget, and Jim Compton; County Commissioner Ron French; and Amy Beth Miller of The Daily Times. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 7 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Vice Chair Brad Bowers, Chairperson Dodd Crowe, Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, and School Representative Fred Goins
- Absent** 2 - Commissioner Joe McCulley, and School Representative Debbie Sudhoff

#### A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Vice Chair Bowers, to set the agenda. A voice vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed.

#### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lawhorn, seconded by Vice Chair Bowers, that the minutes be approved. A voice vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for April 30, 2019.](#)

**Attachments:** [MeetingMinutes2019-Apr-30](#)

These minutes were approved.

2. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2019.](#)

**Attachments:** [MeetingMinutes29-Jul-2019-11-38-53](#)

These minutes were approved.

**C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON AGENDA.**

There was none.

**D. REPORTS.****1. Maintenance/Construction Report.**

Mr. Terry Baldwin gave a Maintenance and Construction report on various projects at the schools that included: 364 work orders closed for August, and 177 in-progress; the finished the gym floors at William Blount High; the front fence replaced at Walland Elementary; HVAC units installed at Heritage High and Carpenters Middle; a new compressor at Carpenters Elementary; and the gym lights at Fairview Elementary were upgraded to LEDs.

There was no action taken.

**2. Financial Report.**

Mr. Troy Logan gave the Financial report. He reported the enrollment figure as of August 28 for K-12 (excluding pre-K) was 10,552; and noted that it changes daily. He reported that Central Office continues to work on compiling the information requested at the June 2019 Education Committee regarding the capacity of each school vs. enrollment numbers for each school. He reported that they are currently working on closing the books from last year, and that to date, things are running smoothly this year. In August 2019, the School Board approved two budget increases for use of School fund balance for: 1) \$41,000 to fence around Fairview Elementary; and 2) \$1 million for construction of two field houses at both high schools. Pending School Board approval is a request for \$85,000 use of fund balance for a turn lane at the back entrance of Heritage High; and an increase for \$378,880, which is a partial funding increase of a Safe Schools grant and fund balance (\$208,000), to pay for a mass communications system called SARA that the Purchasing Department bid. SARA will be implemented at both high schools, Everett and the middle schools. SARA will integrate with 911, the Sheriff's Office, school teachers, etc. At Commissioner Akard's request, Mr. Logan will provide the ongoing costs (annual fees, licenses, etc.) associated for SARA.

There was no action taken.

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

There was none.

**F. NEW BUSINESS.**

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

Director Rob Britt mentioned that this was the first meeting of the new school year. He stressed the need for school bus drivers. Over the summer they lost 4-6 drivers due to various reasons, and no substitute drivers are available.

Commissioner Akard inquired about the bus routing software that was discussed last year. Mr. Logan responded that the subject would be approached again this year.

Chairman Crowe inquired about the two field houses. Mr. Britt responded that the two football field houses would be about 4800-5200 sq.ft. each, and that other school athletic teams would also utilize the field houses. Mr. Britt stressed that the \$1 million is from school fund balance, not fund 177; and the projects as disclosed for fund 177 remain unchanged - new HVACs at William Blount High, and renovate the science labs at Heritage High.

Commissioner Akard inquired about the academic test scores. Mr. Britt reported that the schools have achieved an "advancing" status, which is just under "exemplary". He reported there being five reward schools, all elementary, and three of which being first time reward schools. Mr. Britt offered to give a presentation to the committee of where each school finished academically.

There was no action taken.

**2. Blount County School Board.**

School Board member Fred Goins thanked the commissioners for the opportunity to be included on the Education Committee.

There was no action.

**3. Other.**

There was none.

**4. Next Meeting - October 1, 2019 - location to be announced.**

The Chairman mentioned a request that the Education Committee meetings be held in a central location, and at a different time. A smaller, less formal room would be better. A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Akard, to discuss changing the meeting location and time. A voice vote was taken. The Chairman declared that it would be an item on next month's Education Committee agenda.

After some discussion, the Chairman declared that the next Education Committee meeting would be held at Mary Blount Elementary School on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

There was none.

**H. ADJOURNMENT.**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bowers, seconded unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned. The Chairman declared the Education Committee meeting to be adjourned at 1:15 PM on September 3, 2019.