



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Education Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

12:00 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 935 3345 5509

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met electronically via Zoom Meetings on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chairman Dodd Crowe called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present with the late arrival of Commissioner Robbie Bennett. 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, and Blount County Schools Maintenance Foreman Terry Baldwin. 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 Joe McCulley, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Debbie Sudhoff
- Absent** 2 - Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, and Commissioner Steve Mikels

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, to set the agenda. A voice vote was taken with all 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 December 1, 2020.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes 2020-Dec-1](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Akard, 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 AGENDA.

There was none.

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

Maintenance Foreman Terry Baldwin reported that there were 189 work orders closed and 91 work orders in-progress. Mr. Baldwin's report of the various maintenance/construction projects at the schools included: Porter Elementary - installed new HVAC unit; Eagleton Middle - installed 4 new HVAC units; William Blount 9th Grade Academy - refinished gym floors; Mary Blount Elementary - installed new playground equipment; and William Blount High installed new flooring and door in the guard house.

There was no action taken.

2. Financial Report.

Fiscal Administrator Troy Logan gave the financial report that included the December 2020 sales tax revenue that increased 11% compared to last December. Mr. Logan gave the breakdown of 2 budget increases for Fund 177. The first an increase for \$298,000 for Eagleton Middle School's College and Career Academy that would be used for classroom furniture, bathroom renovations, a new PA bell system, removal of the portables, electrical upgrades, cafeteria equipment, a new sign, and converting an ESL workroom into a classroom. The second increase for \$295,000 would replace 29 HVAC units across the district.

Commissioner McCulley inquired about the status of the new field houses. Mr. Logan said that work had begun laying blocks. Commissioner Bennett confirmed.

Commissioner Akard questioned why the 29 HVAC units were not included in the previous budget increase. Mr. Logan stated that they were not aware they needed to replace the units until they were turned on. Commissioner Akard suggested testing the equipment before there's an immediate need. Commissioner Crowe agreed on being proactive. Mr. Logan recommended implementing a yearly breakdown when able.

Chairman Crowe inquired about the sales tax revenue increase. Mr. Logan mentioned an NPR interview with a UT economist who highlighted three reasons for the increased revenue: 1) stimulus checks, 2) the need for the service industry decreased as individuals buying goods increased, and 3) online sales.

There was no action taken.

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

1. Report from the Director of Schools.

Director of Schools Rob Britt gave an update on COVID-19 response - December 2020 was the end of the first full semester of virtual schools. He reported that the number of active cases after winter break was 30. Mr. Britt stated they will continue the split schedules to aid in social distancing. The State Department moved all teachers up to group 1b for receiving the vaccination; they will implement vaccines using the POD method throughout the school district. Governor Lee called for a special legislative session on January 19, 2021, to address education with 5 priority areas being: budget, teacher pay, accountability, learning loss, and literacy. A federal stimulus package signed into law included funds for education - ESSER Fund and ESSER II. Mr. Britt will propose a budget with two areas of interest for fund use being deferred maintenance and learning loss. Mr. Britt stated 200 students will return to in-person school from virtual learning, and about 1,600 students remain enrolled in virtual school. Students desiring to continue online learning for the 21-22 school year must meet certain requirements to enroll in the Future Ready School.

School Board Member Fred Goins inquired about the timeframe for vaccinating the bus drivers. Mr. Britt reminded them that anyone 75 years and older can get the vaccine immediately, but is unsure if the bus drivers will be vaccinated at the same time as educators.

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

Chairman Crowe inquired about the banners for academic achievers mentioned during the last Education Committee meeting. Ms. Sudoff will give an update at the next Education Committee meeting.

There was no action taken.

3. Other.

Chairman Crowe asked members to remember the educators who died as a result of COVID-19. Commissioner Bowers spoke of his uncle, Lenville Powell, who recently passed away due to COVID-19. Mr. Powell was an educator with Blount County Schools.

There was no action taken.

4. Next Meeting - February 2, 2021 - location to be announced.

With no objection, the Chairman declared that the next Education Committee meeting would be held virtually.

There was no action taken.

G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Akard, to adjourn. The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. At 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, the Education Committee meeting adjourned.