



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Education Committee

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

12:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at the Blount County Courthouse in Maryville, Tennessee on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chair Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. An electronic roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk Lauri Bell. There were 10 members present and 1 absent with the late arrivals of Commissioner Staci Lawhorn and School Board Member Debbie Sudhoff. The Chair declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Director of Schools Rob Britt; Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke; and Assistant Chief Financial Officer Deena Finley. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 10 - Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Vice Chair Nick Bright, Commissioner Dodd Crowe, Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, Commissioner Joe McCulley, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Chairperson Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Debbie Sudhoff
- Absent** 1 - Commissioner Mike Akard

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner McCulley, that the agenda be set. An electronic vote was taken. The Chair declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Crowe, McCulley, Mikels, and Reagan

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Akard, Lawhorn, Goins, and Sudhoff

Abstain: 0

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2021.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes \(22\)](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, that the minutes be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chair declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Crowe, McCulley, Mikels, and Reagan

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Akard, Lawhorn, Goins, and Sudhoff

Abstain: 0

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Commissioner Jim Hammontree, District 2, spoke about agenda item F.3.a.Resolution Requesting / Challenging Blount County to Raise their Education Funding to the State of Tennessee Average and Include Preventative Opioid Addiction Training.

D. REPORTS.

1. Maintenance/Construction Report.

Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave the maintenance/construction report that included ongoing projects, such as: Heritage High HVAC renovation; bleacher replacements at the high schools; district-wide bleacher repairs; replacement flooring at both Carpenters schools; the Lanier Elementary sewer project; facility condition assessment; HVAC maintenance contract; and Heritage High CTE renovation. Future projects include: Eagleton College & Career Academy (ECCA) resurface for the track field and parking lot, and new field houses design; cafeteria update at both high schools; WBHS CTE design; Walland outdoor classroom; tree removal district-wide; construction of a 30x50 metal barn and demolition of the old barn at Heritage High. There were 223 work orders closed out.

There was no action taken.

2. Financial Report.

Assistant Chief Financial Officer Deena Finley gave the financial report that included the approval of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER 3.0) Fund; and budget increases for the classified pay grades.

There was no action taken.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Report from the Director of Schools.

Blount County Schools Director Rob Britt asked if the committee had any questions about the pay grade adjustments for schools classified positions that Ms. Finley mentioned. There was none.

There was no action taken.

2. Blount County School Board.

School Board Member Fred Goins inquired about the revised election districts.

School Board Member Debbie Sudhoff addressed the committee about the Lanier Elementary sewer project.

There was no action taken.

3. Other.

- a. [Resolution Requesting / Challenging Blount County to Raise their Education Funding to the State of Tennessee Average and Include Preventative Opioid Addiction Training.](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION Education Funding Increase](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Crowe, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that opened the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crowe, seconded by Vice Chair Bright, that the Resolution be postponed. After some discussion, the movers withdrew their motion to postpone.

Commissioner Crowe will continue to work on a resolution relating to education and opioid addiction.

There was no action taken.

4. Discussion of the 2022 Education Committee Meeting Schedule.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Lawhorn, that the Education Committee meet on the same day as the Commission Workshop Committee meetings.

Commissioner Mikels called for questions.

An electronic vote was taken on the motion to move the Education Committee meeting dates. The Chair declared the motion to have failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Mikels

No: 7 - Bennett, Bowers, Bright, Crowe, Lawhorn, McCulley, and Reagan

Absent: 1 - Akard, Goins, and Sudhoff

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

The Chair declared the next Education Committee meeting to be at Prospect Elementary School on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.

H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**I. ADJOURNMENT.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lawhorn, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned. The Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned. The meeting of the Education Committee adjourned on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 1:18 p.m.