



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Education Committee

Monday, May 2, 2022

12:30 PM

Rockford Elementary School
3728 Williams Mill Rd., Rockford, TN 37853

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Rockford Elementary School in Rockford, Tennessee on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chair Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 7 members present and 4 absent. The Chair declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Director of Schools Rob Britt; Assistant Director Jake Jones; Fiscal Administrator Troy Logan; Assistant CFO Deena Finley; Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke; Rockford Elementary School Principal Chad Tipton; and Board of Education members Diane Bain and Vandy Kemp. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 7 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Dodd Crowe, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Chairperson Dawn Reagan, and School Representative Fred Goins
- Absent** 4 - Vice Chair Nick Bright, Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, Commissioner Joe McCulley, and School Representative Debbie Sudhoff

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the agenda be set. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, there was none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2022.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes27-Apr-2022-02-51-19](#)

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

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Mr. Forrest Erickson spoke about the Heritage High School Planetarium. Mr. Harry Grothjahn spoke about Orion. Ms. Vandy Kemp, former Principal of HHS, also spoke regarding the planetarium.

There was no action taken.

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

Blount County Schools Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave the maintenance/construction report. Mr. Duke reported that no projects had been completed.

Ongoing projects included: Lanier Elementary sewage plant; Eagleton College and Career Academy (ECCA) updates of track and field, field houses, press box, CTE and parking lot; Heritage High (HHS) CTE building renovation and HVAC phases 1b and 2; ECCA painting the tenth grade hall and classrooms; Montvale Elementary gym wall painting; HHS and William Blount High (WBHS) commons areas and ECCA tenth grade ceiling and LED lighting; ECCA lower gym floor refinishing; and multi-year contracts for gym floor refinishing and polished concrete.

Future projects included: HHS CTE renovation.

Maintenance projects included: moving a shed at ECCA; annual bleacher inspections; WBHS 9th Grade Academy a leak in cooling tower that ruined 2 motors; installed HVAC units at Middlesettlements, Eagleton Elem, and moved 7 bleachers from ECCA to HHS baseball/softball fields; and received lead test results. There were 236 work orders closed.

There was no action taken.

2. Financial Report.

Blount County Schools Fiscal Administrator Troy Logan gave the financial report that included a budget amendment request for LED lighting contract; utility accounts may require a budget amendment (for electric, water, sewer and natural gas); BEP estimate received an increase of \$630,000; and plans to present a balanced budget to the School Board.

There was no action taken.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**F. NEW BUSINESS.****1. Report from the Rockford Elementary School Principal.**

Rockford Elementary School Principal Chad Tipton welcomed the meeting attendees and introduced himself and the "Rock". Since 2017 they have worked to provide the skills students need to be prepared and successful for the future. They have achieved this by empowering teachers, branding the school, and in the process have become a proud community school. Mr. Tipton highlighted daily activities that create excitement in the students to learn and also teaches them important life skills. In 2019 Rockford was a rewards school, and has recently been deemed a Level 5 school.

There was no action taken.

2. Report from the Director of Schools.

Director of Schools Rob Britt mentioned that Rockford is the most impoverished school in the county, and bragged on Principal Tipton's leadership and the Rockford staff on their achievements. Mr. Britt challenged everyone present to remember the teachers during teacher appreciation week May 2 - May 6, 2022. This was Mr. Britt's last committee meeting as Director of Schools. He encouraged participants to come together to support the schools. He also spoke about the ground-breaking event at ECCA.

There was no action taken.

3. Blount County School Board.

School Board member Fred Goins announced the regular Board of Education meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to include public input regarding the selection of a new director of schools, and a special called meeting on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. for the Board of Education to select a new director of schools.

There was no action taken.

4. Heritage High School Planetarium.

The Chair recognized Mr. Forrest Erickson who suggested a sub committee of people interested in revitalizing the planetarium, or a portable telescope and an astronomy club. Mr. Duke mentioned that the school's facility committee will meet on May 24, 2022, to make a recommendation to the school board for the outcome of the building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Crowe, to wait on the school board's decision of the facility. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, there was none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

5. Other.

The Chair recognized Commissioner Crowe who spoke about the need of an anti-drug training curriculum for students.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crowe, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, to create an ad hoc committee for the purpose of creating drug prevention curriculum and implementation, with said committee to be made up of commissioners, school board members, middle school guidance counselors, school principals, Amanda Ingle-Slinsky with the State of Tennessee, and amended to include law enforcement representation on the ad hoc committee. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

6. Next Meeting - May 31, 2022 - location to be announced.

There was no discussion.

G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Education Committee meeting adjourned on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 2:05 p.m.