



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Education Committee

Commissioner Mike Akard
Commissioner Robbie Bennett
Commissioner Brad Bowers
Commissioner Nick Bright
Commissioner Misty Davis
Commissioner Jessica Hannah
Commissioner Earl McMahan
Commissioner Steve Mikels
Commissioner Dawn Reagan
School Board Member Fred Goins
School Board Member Erica Moore

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

12:30 PM

Union Grove Elementary School
330 S. Old Grey Ridge Rd., Friendsville 37737

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Union Grove Elementary School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chairperson Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 8 members present and 3 absent. The Chair declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Director of Schools David Murrell; Assistant Director Jake Jones; Chief Financial Officer Troy Logan; and Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke; and School Board Member Robby Kirkland. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 8 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Erica Moore
- Absent** 3 - Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Earl McMahan, and Commissioner Steve Mikels

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

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

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes15-Nov-2022-01-12-05](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, that the minutes be approved. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. REPORTS.

1. Maintenance/Construction Report.

Blount County Schools Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave the maintenance/construction report that included:

COMPLETED PROJECTS -- William Blount High (WBHS) baseball outfield fence.

ONGOING PROJECTS -- HVAC; Eagleton College and Career (ECCA) renovations; and Townsend Elementary cooling tower replacement.

FUTURE PROJECTS -- Fairview Elementary roof replacement; Heritage High security vestibule; and Walland Elementary handicap lift.

Schools Maintenance closed 355 work orders that included the installation of 6 new heat exchangers in HVAC rooftop units at Heritage Middle; replaced 4 double, low hung vanities in the eighth grade wing at Carpenters Middle; and installed 13 doors at ECCA.

There was no action taken.

2. Financial Report.

Blount County Schools Chief Financial Officer Troy Logan gave the financial report that included budget increase requests of \$1,595,000.00 to appropriate capital funds for the Fairview roof project in Education Capital Fund 177; \$300,000.00 to appropriate funding for Capital Project Contingency; and budget planning for 2023-24.

The Chair inquired about RTI (Response to Intervention) teachers for the next school year. Mr. Murrell will check with the State.

There was no action taken.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Report from Union Grove Elementary School Principal.

Union Grove Elementary School (UGES) Principal Kristy Brewer introduced herself and the school. UGES is 15 years old, and is currently a kindergarten thru fifth grade school with a Headstart preschool program. Ms. Brewer spoke of their STEM program, their weekly science program that is part of their curriculum. STEM will be utilizing UGES's courtyard for planting in the spring. There are currently 21 teachers on staff, and they share art, music, guidance, and PE teachers with other Blount County Schools. Ms. Brewer spoke of "parental engagement" - it's basically family night events at the school; the Bobcat Adventures Passport sticker program that positively reinforces good behavior; they're re-introducing community involvement since the COVID pandemic as well as reading mentors. She commended the county and school board for covering the student school fees, and would like to see all students receive a free lunch daily. Ms. Brewer mentioned UGES's growing library. She concluded by thanking the attendees and extended a tour of the school.

There was no action taken.

2. Report from the Director of Schools.

Director of Schools David Murrell commended Principal Brewer on her efforts and achievements at UGES. Mr. Murrell thanked the committee members for their support with ECCA science labs, the sixth grade drug prevention program and a pilot program for fifth grade in coordination with school health. Mr. Murrell mentioned the high schools gearing up for exams, and the state report card that is available on the internet by searching "TN School Report Card 2022" and he and his staff welcome any questions.

There was no action taken.

3. Blount County School Board.

School Board Member Erica Moore stated she has visited nine Blount County Schools and appreciates the commission's efforts in working with the school board to make improvements on the facilities, and hopes it will continue.

The Chair for one is glad the schools are re-open for events after the COVID pandemic. Ms. Moore elaborated further that the schools - students and staff - are also happy to welcome the parents back for special events. School Board Member Goins was glad that he recently attended a book fair and luncheon hosted at one of the schools.

School Board Member Robby Kirkland urged the commission to combine the ten cents and four cents of tax levy for the schools into fund 177 - Schools Capital Projects funds.

There was no action taken.

4. Other.

5. Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 31, 2023 - location to be announced.

The Chair announced that the next Education Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, would take place at Union Grove Middle School.

G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Mr. David Coleman, a parent, spoke of his concerns with the county's academic growth per the state's standards.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made to adjourn. The Education Committee meeting adjourned on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 1:49 p.m.