

Marked Tree Board of Education
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 21, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education met in a regular monthly meeting on September 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. Members present were: Ms. Jessica Fernandez, Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Jr. and Ms. Dana Ashcraft. Members absent: Mr. Bryan Parrish. President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting to order.

Media Notified.

I. ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT:

On Monday, Sept. 22nd, 2020, the Marked Tree School District held its Annual Report to the Public. Several statistics concerning enrollment and staff were shared, then Supt. Wright shared the financial standing of the district. During the 2019-2020 school year, the district's ending balance was \$39,441 higher than 2018-2019 and the district was able to contribute \$869,500 to its building funds. Those funds currently being used for security enhancements such as cameras in each classroom, a key card entry system, and a gym renovation project. Wright stated he thought the district would end all of those projects with about \$2.2 million left in the building fund, which should be set aside for emergencies and serve the district as a good financial foundation.

Superintendent Matt Wright addressed goals for the district by sharing his focus areas of facilities, improving the cycle of teaching and learning, becoming a district of adult learners, and creating a positive school culture. As it pertained to facilities, Supt. Wright stated that the district must continue to create safe places for students to learn. Not only should those spaces be safe, but they must also be inviting to students.

As the meeting progressed, Supt. Wright stated that the district must continue to enhance the cycle of teaching and learning. This was divided into four main areas: curriculum, instruction, assessment, and intervention/remediation. Superintendent Matt Wright stated that the district had made significant efforts and investments to create an aligned curriculum, which was being done with teachers in department meetings and during professional development. Wright shared more, but went on to say that the district had acquired several curriculum resources for teachers and students such as Wit and Wisdom, My Perspectives, Foundations, Geodes, and Ph.D. Science. There are several intervention pieces the district uses such as RTI, 95% group, and intervention periods.

Superintendent Matt Wright advised that the use of monies including ESA, Title VIB, Title I, and Title IIA are being used for supplemental education resources, afterschool programs, professional development, and to supplement partial salaries.

Elementary Principal Lisa Gray shared the report for her school by beginning with the mission, vision, and core beliefs for that building. After sharing the strengths and weaknesses that were identified through ACT Aspire data from 2018-2019 school year, Ms. Gray reminded the public there were no scores from last year. However, data indicates those strengths and weaknesses still hold true. The elementary school, as well as the high school, indicated they were working hard to raise the number of students reading on grade level and increase the number of students scoring Ready or Exceeding on the ACT Aspire. The elementary school is also working on implementing Lincoln Learning for its virtual learners.

High School Principal Annesa Thompson shared her school's core beliefs, as well as the strengths and weaknesses in their educational program. Ms. Thompson notified the board that their goals were the same as the elementary, but they were also focusing on creating a structured writing model and implementing intervention periods into the master schedule for additional student support during the school day. In an effort to improve grade level reading at the high school, critical reading classes have been added for junior and senior high students. Thompson also pointed out that the high school's concurrent credit class participation tripled from 19-20 to 20-21. These classes are for any student in grades 9-12.

All schools are MTSD CIPA compliant and are accredited.

That concluded the public meeting.

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Bryan Parrish made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to approve Item II the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting ; approve Item III the financial statement presented by Superintendent Matt Wright; Item V the 5% grant pay to Brandi Manuel in the sum of \$607.50; Item VI adopt the attached COVID Sick Leave Policy; and Item IX approve the attached 5% Salary Resolution. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. All voted in favor.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020-2021 BUDGETS:

Ms. Dana Ashcraft made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to approve the 2020-2021 budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. All voted in favor.

IV. CONSIDER SOLAR PROJECT PENDING CONTRACT REVIEW:

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to accept the proposal of Entegrety and to enter into a contract for updated led lights and to work with Wynn School District for solar energy. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan Parrish. All voted in favor.

V. CONSIDER BASKETBALL COURT BID:

Mr. Bryan Parrish made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to accept the bid for a new basketball court. Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield. All voted in favor.

VI. COVID UPDATES – RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN:

Superintendent Matt Wright informed the board that ADE has accepted the District's plan to return to school and reported that as of the present time zero cases have been reported.

VII. BOARD TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Superintendent Matt Wright discussed upcoming training opportunities.

VIII. PERSONNEL:

President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting into Regular Session.

- a. Mr. Bryan Parrish made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to hire Jimmy Hall as Kindergarten Aide. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. All voted in favor.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS:

The board accepted the resignation of board member Bryan Parrish who will be moving out of the district. Many supporters were present to commemorate the years of dedication and service he has provided to the district.

President Jessica Fernandez adjourned the meeting.

Jessica Fernandez
Board President

Ms. Dana Ashcraft
Board Secretary