

MCMINN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session Meeting
September 8, 2022

The McMinn County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. Attendance was as follows:

Denise Cunningham- present
Jonathan Pierce- present
Joe Malone- present
Mike Cochran- present
Dustin Prichard- present
Donna Casteel- present
Tony Allman- present
Kevin Goins- present
Bill Irvin- present
Sharon Brown- present

Chairman Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and Bill Irvin led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no requests to address the board. Chairman Brown asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Jonathan Pierce made the motion, Donna Casteel seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA

1. GUESTS

Austin Sauerbrei

2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Workshop 8/8/22 & Regular Session 8/11/22
- b. Bids & Purchases
- c. Budget Amendments
- d. Salary Supplements
- e. Fundraiser Requests
- f. Surplus Equipment
- g. Contract to Audit Accounts of McMinn County Schools-Internal School Funds
- h. Contract-United Healthcare for Nursing/Therapy Services
- i. Safe Return to In-person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan
- j. Out of State & Overnight Field Trip

3. PERSONNEL

- a. Personnel Actions

4. COMMUNICATION

- a. Ben Burchfield-Sidewalk Construction

5. REPORTS

a. Review Policy Section 1

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS

8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

a. Election of Board Chairman/Vice Chairman

b. Next Regular Session Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2022

ADJOURN

1. GUESTS

One speaker, Austin Sauerbrei was in attendance to address the board. Chairman Brown explained that Dustin Prichard would be the official timekeeper, and Mr. Sauerbrei would have five minutes to address the board. Chairman Brown explained that when four minutes were up, Mr. Prichard would let him know he has one minute remaining.

Mr. Sauerbrei said that he and his wife moved to Athens about a year and a half ago with their two boys ages 3 and 6 and that they are part of the McMinn County Neighbors, which is a group of parents, educators and community members that work together to support local schools. He explained that he was concerned about the recent third grade retention policy that was passed by the state legislature and how it will impact kids, teachers, and staff in McMinn County. Mr. Sauerbrei said after reading the bill and looking through the newly released toolkit from the Department of Education, his understanding is that this new law will hinge third grade retention decisions on a single standardized ELA test. He said his first grade son is a pretty good student, excels at reading, loves to write stories, make art, and loves school. For one of his assessments last year in kindergarten he had to take a test on an iPad in a crowded room with all his classmates. His son got the kindergartner jitters, froze up and bombed the test and that test put him in the 17th percentile on one of the core sections. He said this test was not a fair assessment of his progress and in this case they were able to move forward and keep him on track, but this new legislation could hold back his son and thousands of other students based on a single bad day.

Mr. Sauerbrei said that many have expressed ongoing frustration with the undue weight that TCAP testing places on students and teachers. He said he won't presume this third grade retention bill was passed with ill intent, we all want our students to be learning at a level appropriate for their age and want our kids to get the extra support they need to keep on track. Mr. Sauerbrei said this legislation feels like a big step in the wrong direction at a time when our teachers and staff are in dire need of support, not to mention the long term impact that this could have on kids in our community. He said he knows that school boards, administrators, and teachers have been put in a difficult situation having to deal with the ramifications, but given that it is in the system's lap now, he has some questions.

1. Many of our teachers are stretched almost to the breaking point already. Adding in summer school, additional tutoring, and presumably a bubbling third grade student population, what are your plans to increase teacher salaries or add new staff to help fill in these gaps? If not, how can you support and advocate for the resources needed to fill in those gaps?

2. In the toolkit, summer camps were presented as an intervention option. Do we know if there's any evidence that the Summer Bridge programming offered will have any impact on reading comprehension?

3. Senator Mark White, who sponsored the bill has said we should review and make changes to the law if needed. As a local school district, what are we doing to solicit feedback from teachers on this issue, track results, and advocate at the state level?

Mr. Sauerbrei said he appreciates the board, and he doesn't presume to have answers and doesn't expect the board to have it all figured out either. He said he hopes the needs of students and teachers can be kept front and center and find constructive ways to move forward together.

Chairman Brown asked if any board member needed to pull an item from the Regular Consent Agenda to be discussed. Mike Cochran asked to pull item 2.b. Bids & Purchases for more information on the Instructure purchase.

Director Parkison explained that this is the Benchmark Software purchase, the same software that was used last school year, and the teachers were loving it. Julie Goodin said this program allows them to see what standards and what areas each student is missing and has been very receptive in our district and this gives us more data and tools in our toolbox. Steven Brady explained that this software does several things, it is used for benchmarking which is important because it helps them see how that student is progressing throughout the year.

Jonathan Pierce moved to approve the Regular Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Donna Casteel. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes- Workshop 8/8/22 & regular Session 8/11/22

b. Bids & Purchases

1. Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram \$180,134.49

106 S. James Campbell Blvd

Columbia, TN 38401

Purchase of (3) Trucks

2. Instructure \$82,970.00

6330 South 300 East Suite 700

Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Testing, Software, Benchmarking & Reporting Services

c. Budget Amendments

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, CTE Perkins Reserve, #800

To enter the budget for the CTE Perkins Reserve Grant for FY 2022-2023

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Grant, #940
To enter the budget for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Grant for FY 22-23

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Early Literacy Networks, #951
To enter the budget for the Early Literacy Networks Grant for FY 22-23 to match the ePlan document

GENERAL PURPOSE #141
To move funds from Unassigned Fund Balance to Capital Outlay for Rogers Creek roofing project

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Carl Perkins, #820
To amend the budget in order to be the same as the FY 2022-2023 ePlan document

GENERAL PURPOSE #141
To enter the budget for the Coordinated School Health Grant for FY 2022-2023

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Math Implementation Support Grant, #933
To enter the budget for the Math Implementation Supports Grant for FY 2022-2023

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, ARP Homeless 2.0, #701
To enter the budget for the ARP Homeless 2.0 Grant for FY 2022-2023

GENERAL PURPOSE #141
To adjust the budget for psychological personnel to contract position for FY 22-23

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Fiscal Pre-Monitoring Supports Grant, #934
To enter the budget for the Fiscal Pre-Monitoring Supports Grant for FY 22-23

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, ESSER 2.0, #938
To enter the budget for the ESSER 2.0 Grant (CRRSA Act) for FY 2022-2023

GENERAL PURPOSE #141
To enter the approved Voc-Rehab (School to work) budget for the period of Oct 1, 2022 through Sept 30, 2023.

FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Carl Perkins, #820
To amend the budget in order to be the same as the FY 2022-2023 ePlan document

d. Salary Supplements

NAME	DATE	ACCOUNT	TITLE	AMOUNT
Kathie Givens	8/8-12,8/15-19,8/22-26,8/29-30	SPED	Bus Driver	680.00
Trent Ivins	8/27	McMinn High	Custodian	180.00
Mary Murray	8/15-19,8/22-24,8/26	SPED	Bus Driver	180.00
Mary Murray	8/17-19, 8/22-26	SPED	Bus Driver	160.00
Mary Murray	8/8-10	SPED	Bus Driver	60.00
Mary Murray	8/15-17,8/22,8/23,8/24	SPED	Bus Driver	110.00
Mary Murray	8/2-3,8/5,8/8-12	SPED	Bus Driver	160.00
William Passmore	8/8-12	MCBOE	Bus Driver	100.00
William Passmore	8/15-16	MCBOE	Bus Driver	40.00
William Passmore	8/22-26	MCBOE	Bus Driver	100.00
William Passmore	7/29	McMinn High	Bus Driver	212.50
Connie Stephens	7/19, 7/29 (mileage)	McMinn High	Bus Driver	305.20
Connie Stephens	8/12	McMinn High	Bus Driver	75.00

e. Fundraiser Requests

SCHOOL	DEPARTMENT	FUNDRAISER	MONIES RAISED ALLOCATION
Central High	Athletic Dept	Youth Basketball Camp & 3v3 Basketball Tourney	Provide money for upkeep of athletic field maintenance
McMinn High	Choral Dept	Poster Donation Fund	Paying for concert uniforms and/or field trip

f. Surplus Equipment

The following submitted equipment that was nonworking or no longer needed:
CTE, Central High, Central Office, Englewood, Rogers Creek, McMinn High

g. Contract to Audit Accounts of McMinn County Schools-Internal School Funds

h. Contract- United Healthcare for Nursing/Therapy Services

i. Safe Return to In-person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

j. Out of State & Overnight Field Trip

Approved- McMinn County FFA-Indianapolis, Indiana

Date of trip- 10/26/22-10/29/22

3. PERSONNEL

a. Personnel Actions

PROFESSIONALS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYMENT ACTION	LOCATION	DATE
Lowe	Lindsay	School Counselor	Resign	Niota	8/25/2022
Chrisman	Michelle	Teacher	Hire	MCHS	9/6/2022
Irons	Donna	Teacher	Hire	Niota	9/1/2022
Munoz-Rodriguez	Susanna	Teacher	Hire	MCHS	8/29/2022
Stevens	James	Teacher	Resign	MCHS	8/19/2022

EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Biggam	Morgan	PT Cook	Hire	Eng	8/16/2022
Breeden	Amber	Cook	Hire	MVS	8/16/2022
Buckner	Melora	Cook	Hire	EKB	8/25/2022
Campbell	Bridgett	Aide/Music-Art	Resign	EKB	8/31/2022
Dickey	Sara	Aide/Music-Art	Resign	Ricveille	8/12/2022
Ferry	Samantha	Nurse	Hire	MCHS	8/24/2022
Johnson	Sherry	Custodian	Hire	MCHS	8/22/2022
Martin	Glenn	Maintenance Worker	Hire		8/29/2022
Martin	Belinda	Cook	Hire	EKB	8/24/2022
Miller	Beth	PT Secretary/monitor	Resign	Rog Crk	8/31/2022
Pickel	Heath	Café monitor	Hire	Rog Crk	9/1/2022
Rosenberry	Kenzie	Spec. Ed. Aide (PT)	Hire	Niota/ENG	8/15/2022
Santos	Xiomara	Bus Driver	Resign		8/31/2022
Stanton	Kayla	PT Cok	Hire	Niota	8/16/2022
Vicker	Tiffany	Café monitor	Resign	Niota	8/22/2022
Webb	Karen	PT Secretary	Hire	Rog Crk	9/1/2022

4. COMMUNICATION

a. Ben Burchfield-Sidewalk Construction

Ben Burchfield, Director of Public works was in attendance and spoke about plans to install a sidewalk that will run along Rocky Mt. Road adjacent to McMinn County High School. By completing this sidewalk, they hope to create a safe space for students. The goal is to have the sidewalk completed within the next few months, ideally before fall break if the weather cooperates.

Jonathan Pierce made the motion to approve the sidewalk extension contingent upon attorney Scott Bennett's approval. Motion was seconded by Dustin Prichard. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. REPORTS

a. Review Policy Section 1

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Steven Brady, Julie Goodin and Roger Freeman presented data information. Schools achieving level 5 for growth are: Calhoun Elementary, Central High School, EK Baker Elementary, Englewood Elementary, Mt. View Elementary, and Riceville Elementary.

Darren McCracken went over the yearly requirements set forth by E-Rate and discussed the mandates set forth in the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and what McMinn County School District is doing to be in compliance with those mandates.

The system must enforce the use of technology protection measures. McMinn County Schools does so with an internet web filter, student content monitoring solution, and student device monitoring and safety software.

The system must have an Internet Safety Policy and an Acceptable Use Policy. McMinn County Schools adheres to Board Policy 4.406, Use of Internet and the Acceptable Use Policy is reviewed each year and is included in student handbooks and is available on McMinn County Schools system and school websites.

Schools must also educate minors with respect to online safety and cyberbullying. Typically, school counselors meet with students at various times throughout the school year and discuss the importance of being safe with their digital footprint as well as providing handouts throughout the year concerning online safety and cyberbullying.

7. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS

Bill Irvin said he visited Mt. View Elementary and said the third grade there has an awesome reading program that gives the kids a prize, and the best part about it was how excited and encouraging the kids were towards one another.

Dustin Prichard thanked McMinn County for the support he and his family received during the loss of his daughter.

Sharon Brown thanked Kim Bivens and Christy Roberts for all their hard work in HR.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

a. Election of Board Chairman/Vice Chairman

Election of Board Chairman:

Chairman Brown opened the floor for nominations for the Board Chairman Position.

Sharon Brown nominated Jonathan Pierce for Board Chairman.

Tony Allman nominated Mike Cochran for Board Chairman.

Chairman Brown asked for a roll call vote. Voting for Jonathan Pierce was first since he was first to be nominated.

Denise Cunningham: YES

Jonathan Pierce: YES

Joe Malone: YES
Mike Cochran: NO
Dustin Prichard: YES
Donna Casteel: YES
Tony Allman: NO
Kevin Goins: YES
Bill Irvin: YES
Sharon Brown: YES

YES- 8
NO- 2

Jonathan Pierce was elected Board Chairman, and Sharon Brown turned the meeting over to Mr. Pierce.

Election of Vice Chairman:

Chairman Pierce opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chairman Position.
Denise Cunningham nominated Sharon Brown for Vice Chairman.
Dustin Prichard nominated Mike Cochran for Vice Chairman.

Chairman Pierce asked for a roll call vote. Voting for Sharon Brown was first since she was first to be nominated.

Denise Cunningham: YES
Jonathan Pierce: YES
Joe Malone: YES
Mike Cochran: NO
Dustin Prichard: NO
Donna Casteel: YES
Tony Allman: NO
Kevin Goins: NO
Bill Irvin: YES
Sharon Brown: YES

Yes- 6
No- 4

Sharon Brown was elected Vice Chairman.

b. Next Regular Session Board Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2022

Bill Irvin moved to adjourn, Dustin Prichard seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Chairman's Signature

Director of Schools Signature