

**MCMINN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Session Meeting**  
**January 12, 2023**

The McMinn County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.

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

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

Chairman Pierce welcomed everyone to the meeting and Denise Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no requests to address the board. Chairman Pierce asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Dustin Prichard made the motion, Kevin Goins seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**AGENDA**

**1. GUESTS**

Olivia Cook  
Austin Sauerbrei  
Dr. Patricia Waters

**2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes- Regular Session 12/8/22
- b. Budget Amendments
- c. Salary Supplements
- d. Surplus Equipment
- e. High School Graduation Dates

**3. PERSONNEL**

- a. Personnel Actions

**4. COMMUNICATION**

- a. Instructional Stipend Recommendation
- b. Ben Burchfield-McMinn Ave Sidewalk Easement
- c. TRANE Proposal-HVAC for Riceville

d. Resolution

**5. REPORTS**

a. Review Policy Section 4

**6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**7. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS**

**8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

a. Next Regular Session Board Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023

**ADJOURN**

**1. GUESTS**

There were three guests in attendance to address the board. Chairman Pierce explained that Joe Malone would be the official timekeeper, and each guest would have five minutes to speak before the board. Chairman Pierce said that when four minutes were up, Mr. Malone would let them know they have one minute remaining.

The first speaker was Olivia Cook.

Mrs. Cook said that she is requesting the school board to pass a resolution to the state against the third grade retention law, a state that will fail nearly 70% of third graders based on one TCAP ELA score. She said she has to believe that the board already knows that a single standardized test score is not the best indicator of student achievement and that a whole child approach is especially important for economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and students with known and suspected disabilities, as they are the ones that are most penalized by standardized assessments and one size fits all solutions. Mrs. Cook said she has to believe that the board is listening to educators and that retention alone does not work, and this law hurts more than it helps. She said she spent time over the summer working at local food pantries across the county talking to families with the most to lose under this law and about their hopes for our school systems. Mrs. Cook said that many of their answers revolved around the following: more special education staff, smaller class sizes, more care and attention brought to bullying, restorative approaches to discipline, safer schools, more interventions for struggling students, and easier access to their child's education because many of these parents were disabled, working multiple jobs or grandparents raising grandchildren. She said when she talks to other educators, they want better pay, more instructional assistants, more RTI Interventionists for reading and math, more autonomy in the classroom, social workers in the schools, more special education teachers, staff and resources, and restorative approaches to discipline. Mrs. Cook said as this law is written, it addresses none of these needs and offers no real solutions and even with summer camp and tutoring being on the table, everyone is left with more questions and burdens than answers. She said at minimum an amendment needs to be made to this law to at least allow the choice of retention to be left to a wide range of data and a team that knows the child best. She said for an amendment to happen, representatives need to hear from rural districts like McMinn County because rural districts matter, and representatives need to know rural districts are going to hurt the most under this law how it is written. Mrs. Cook said as legislature reconvenes this week, it is the last critical opportunity for the board to pass a resolution demanding an amendment to the third grade retention law.

The second speaker was Austin Sauerbrei.

Mr. Sauerbrei said in a previous board meeting, Director Parkison had addressed the question on what could be done concerning the third grade retention law, and he said to contact the representatives and legislature. He said the question he has for the board, is how will they support parents and teachers and the superintendent on this issue? He said a resolution is one way, contacting representatives as individual board members and letting them know they are a board member is another way or even holding an information session for parents in the district and that will help parents understand what the issue is and the content of it. Mr. Sauerbrei said if the board has concerns, they need to be letting parents know about the concerns. He said that Representative Ron Travis from Dayton filed an amendment bill at the legislature requesting amendments to the law and it looks to be a very good piece of legislation that would change the bad parts of the bill and keep the good parts. Mr. Sauerbrei said Representative Travis and other representatives throughout the state, and the General Assembly as a whole, needs to hear from rural districts on this issue if the amendments are actually going to go through.

The third speaker was Dr. Patricia Waters.

Dr. Waters said the Kingsport City School System had an informational meeting and over 100 parents were in attendance. She said she knows what McMinn County is doing to get the word out, but parents also need to be invited in because they will learn from each other and learn from the system. Dr. Waters said she is suggesting a public information meeting to bring parents in so they can ask questions. She said this will build trust and pay off in the long run because they will know they can come to the system when they need things. She said looking down the road there will be a loss of funding due to voucher and charters and there are problems ahead and it is better to deal with them upfront rather than retroactively with what we are having to do now. Dr. Waters said she suggests engaging with the public, hearing them, and letting them have a voice also.

Kevin Goins moved to approve the Regular Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Sharon Brown. Chairman Pierce asked for a roll call vote to approve the Regular Consent Agenda:

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Sharon Brown- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Denise Cunningham- YES

Dustin Prichard- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

Motion passes.

## **2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Minutes- Regular Session 12/8/22

b. Budget Amendments

### **GENERAL PURPOSE #141**

To budget a donation from ABB Thomas & Betts Corporation to the Mechatronics program for FY 22-23

### **FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, Carl Perkins, #820**

To amend the budget in order to be the same as the FY 2022-2023 ePlan document

### **CENTRAL CAFETERIA #143**

To enter additional funds for the NSLP-Supply Chain Assistance Grant for FY 22-23

### **FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, IDEA Partnership for Systemic Change, #894**

To enter the budget for the IDEA Partnership for Systemic Change (K-12) grant for FY 22-23

c. Salary Supplements

NAME	DATE	ACCOUNT	TITLE	AMOUNT
Mary Lou Bivens	12/2	Central High	Bus Driver	90.00
Betty Ghorley	11/19	McMinn High	Bus Driver	235.00
Betty Ghorley	12/2	Central High	Bus Driver	90.00
Kathie Givens	10/26-28,10/31,11/1-4,11/7,11/9-11,11/14-17	SPED	Bus Driver	640.00
Kathie Givens	11/18,11/28,12/1-2,12/5-9,12/12-13	SPED	Bus Driver	480.00
Kathie Givens	11/18	Niota	Bus Driver	60.00
Kathie Givens	12/13	Niota	Bus Driver	90.00
Kathie Givens	12/15	Niota	Bus Driver	60.00
Regina Jones	12/13	Niota	Bus Driver	90.00
Regina Jones	12/15	Niota	Bus Driver	60.00
Susan Liner	11/18	Calhoun	Bus Driver	90.00
Brent Masingale	12/2	Central High	Bus Driver	175.00
Mary McConkey	11/3	McMinn High	Bus Driver	60.00
Mary McConkey	12/6	Niota	Bus Driver	90.00
Mary Murray	11/29	McMinn High	Bus Driver	60.00
Mary Murray	11/28-30,12/5-7,12/12-14	SPED	Bus Driver	180.00
Mary Murray	11/28-30,12/1,12/7-9,12/14-14	SPED	Bus Driver	200.00
Mary Murray	11/28-30,12/1,12/5-9,12/12-15	SPED	Bus Driver	130.00
Brandy Mullenax	11/28-30,12/1-2,12/5,12/8-9	SPED	Bus Driver	160.00
William Passmore	11/14-18	MCBOE	Bus Driver	100.00
William Passmore	11/28-30,12/1-2	MCBOE	Bus Driver	100.00
William Passmore	12/5-9	MCBOE	Bus Driver	100.00
William Passmore	12/12-15	MCBOE	Bus Driver	80.00
Mark Rogers	11/17	McMinn High	Football Clock Worker	30.00
Jackie Tate	12/2	MCBOE	Bus Driver	90.00
Chase Toomey	Entire Football Season	McMinn High	Scoreboard Worker	350.00
Angie Vincent	11/30	McMinn High	Bus Driver	90.00
Frankie Williams	11/18	Calhoun	Bus Driver	90.00

d. Surplus Equipment

The following submitted surplus equipment that was non-working or no longer needed:  
CTE Center

e. High School Graduation Dates

The following graduation dates were proposed and approved:

Central High School: Friday, May 19, 2023 7:00 PM

McMinn County High School: Saturday, May 20, 2023 9:00 AM

### 3. PERSONNEL-For information only, no action required

#### PROFESSIONALS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYMENT ACTION	LOCATION	DATE
Akiona	Sandra	School Counselor	Hire	CHS	1/3/2023
Castello	Madison	English Teacher	Hire	MCHS	12/12/2022
Ducar	Brian	IT Teacher	Hire	MCTÇ	1/5/2023
Galloway	Jeff	For. Lang Teacher	Resign	MCHS	12/16/2022
Hammonds	Brenda	Spec. Ed. CT	Hire	MCHS	TBD
Lam	Lauren	PT Spec. Ed CT	Hire	EKB/Calhoun	TBD
Lee	Kayla	School Counselor	Hire	RCVLE	1/3/2023
McDaniel	K.J.	Chem Teacher	Hire	MCHS	1/3/2023
Miller	Angie	Principal	Retire	MVS	6/30/2023
Montgomery	Chelsea	Science Teacher	Resign	MCHS	1/4/2023
Ray	Jennifer	Sped Teacher to Sped CT	Hire	RCVLE	1/3/2023

#### EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Blankenship	Betty	Café Monitor	Hire	Niota	1/5/2023
Campbell	Byron	Bus Driver	Hire		12/1/2022
Carver	Victoria	12 Mos. Custodian	Hire	CHS	1/2/2023
Eddington	Rochelle	PT to FT Cook	Promote	CHS	1/4/2023
Rectorovic	John	Cook to Spec. Aide	Hire	CHS	1/5/2023
Rectorovic	John	Head Wrestling Coach		CHS	
Roseberry	Kenzie	Sped Aide	Resign	Niota	12/16/2022
Sulzer	Kathy	Bus Driver	Hire		12/6/2022
Witt	Brian	10 Mos. Custodian	Hire	MCHS	1/3/2023

### 4. COMMUNICATION

#### a. Instructional Stipend Recommendation

Director Parkison said it has been difficult to find foreign language teachers, and there has been a teacher step up and is willing to help. She would be paid an hourly rate outside of her regular teaching time and she will prepare the lessons and there will also be an Instructional Facilitator in the classroom. Director Parkison said this is the best that can be done right now, but if a Foreign Language Teacher is hired, the stipend will end immediately.

Sharon Brown made the motion to accept the position recommendation, Joe Malone seconded.

Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Sharon Brown- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Denise Cunningham- YES

Dustin Prichard- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

All in favor, motion passes.

b. Ben Burchfield- McMinn Ave Sidewalk Easement

Ben Burchfield was in attendance and explained that there is a need to make a small change on about a 100 foot section, instead of going out in front of those utilities, actually stay behind them for about another 100 feet before you turn back out and kind of put it where it is being shown as designed. The main reason behind that is because of the expected large influx of traffic and a lot more turning movement because Powers Path will then be 2-way. He said that little bit of extra separation for a few more feet will be really helpful to help turning cars and pedestrians. Mr. Burchfield said it would just be lowering about a 100 foot section alongside that fence, they won't be getting into the fence at all, and just putting the 5 foot sidewalk up along it and it will go about three to five feet at the most.

Tony Allman made the motion to grant the sidewalk easement, Dustin Prichard seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Sharon Brown- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Denise Cunningham- YES

Dustin Prichard- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

All in favor, motion passes.

c. TRANE Proposal- HVAC for Riceville

Heath Frazier explained the proposal for four air conditioning units at Riceville Elementary School.

Kevin Goins made the motion to accept the proposal, Bill Irvin seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Sharon Brown- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Denise Cunningham- YES  
Dustin Prichard- YES  
Mike Cochran- YES

All in favor, motion passes.

d. Resolution

Director Parkison explained that this is a resolution for McMinn County Board of Education to oppose the retention decision for third and fourth grades.

Sharon Brown made the motion to adopt the resolution, Joe Malone seconded.

Mike Cochran explained that there needed to be some sort of solutions added into the resolution, and he went over five points that he brought out from the November meeting he would like added.

Mike Cochran made the motion to make an amendment to the motion to add the five points. Tony Allman seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

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

All in favor, the amendment to the motion passes.

Donna Casteel said she would like to add another amendment to the motion, by adding the wording S-Team to the resolution. Sharon Brown seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

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

All in favor, the amendment to the motion passes.



Chairman Pierce explained that the resolution would have to be re-worded from what was presented and both amendments did that. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Sharon Brown- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Denise Cunningham- YES

Dustin Prichard- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

All in favor, motion passes.

## **5. REPORTS**

a. Review Policy Section 4

## **6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Parkison said there is still no information on TISA. He said salary scales, formulas, supplements, and retirement policies are currently being reviewed.

## **7. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS**

Bill Irvin said he would like to thank the guests for coming and speaking at the meeting and he appreciated the information that was given.

Denise Cunningham thanked Mike Cochran for the work he did on the bullet points for the resolution.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

a. Next Regular Session Board Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023

Dustin Prichard moved to adjourn, Mike Cochran seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

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Chairman's Signature

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Director of Schools Signature