

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Nashville School District  
August 17, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for the Nashville School District was called to order by President Jerry Wilson at 5:35 PM. Members in attendance were David Hilliard, Jamar Finley, Tem Gunter, and Nick Britt.

David Hilliard made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20 regular meeting and the August 3 special meeting. Tem Gunter seconded the motion with it passing 5-0.

Superintendent Doug Graham said there was no old business to discuss.

Mr. Graham recommended that with an operating balance of \$4,749,085.73 that we approve the payment of bills. The athletic budget is in the red only due to spending in preparation for the season but no revenue yet. Mr. Graham expects that budget to be in the black once athletics begin. Jamar Finley made a motion to approve the payment of bills with David Hilliard seconding. It passed 5-0.

Mr. Graham presented the budget for the 2020-2021 school year for approval. The local revenue is \$4,730,691.00 and the state revenue is \$11,700,371.00 for a total of \$20,601,095.12. The budgeted expenditures are \$16,398,340.71, leaving a projected ending balance of \$4,202,754.41. The budget includes salary increases and insurance increases. Principals turned in budgets for their schools, and those requests were accommodated. Each building got money for COVID-19 supplies. Mr. Graham went over the majority of the budget for the board. Mr. Graham did include budgeting for activity busses as the current ones are 10-11 years old. The primary roof is a priority for Mr. Graham, and he'd also like to complete Wilson Park, work on tennis courts with the city park, and LED lights at Scrapper Stadium. It is usually the case that the board members have a workshop to go over the budget in depth before the meeting, but with the COVID situation that hasn't happened yet. Tem Gunter and Nick Britt expressed the desire to have a workshop before approving the budget. The budget will be tabled until a meeting which will happen next week. After the workshop a special board meeting will be called to approve the budget.

Mr. Graham presented the Title 1 Assurances for approval. Every year it is required to sign these assurances stating we understand the rules and regulations on what is allowed to be purchased with the money. David Hilliard made a motion to approve the assurances with Jamar Finley seconding. This passed 5-0.

Mr. Graham presented the resolution on Act 1120 which reports all of those employees who earned more than 5% of their salary from last year. This is often due to moving to a higher rate of pay job, taking on extra hours, driving a longer route, etc. This year the teachers who were National Board Certified were added now that the money for that goes through the districts instead of directly from the state. Tem Gunter made a motion to accept the resolution with David Hilliard seconding, passing 5-0.

Mr. Graham asked the board to consider a change to PPC 3.9-catastrophic days. The changes were the additions of retirees being able to donate their remaining days at retirement instead of being paid out for them, and that a retiring spouse may donate remaining sick days to a still employed spouse. There was discussion over the wording of the policy. The policy states that if a classified employee donates to a certified employee that the lesser rate of pay is used. The discussion was to if it would be the lesser pay between a lower paid certified employee and a higher paid employee. There was an agreement to look at and alter the wording of the policy for clarity. Nick Britt made a motion to approve the changes as presented with Tem Gunter seconding. This passed 5-0.

Mr. Graham presented the board with a student transfer to consider. The DeQueen School Board voted to allow a Kindergarten student to attend Nashville schools. The board was asked if they accepted her. David Hilliard made a motion to accept the transfer with Jamar Finley seconding, passing 5-0.

Superintendent Graham gave his report starting with the new AAA rules regarding athletic event attendance. The current rule is 66% capacity with every other row being skipped. In adhering to skipping rows we may only get around 50% capacity, or around 1200 people. This alters how tickets are sold. Nashville will no longer accept employee passes or 65 and older lifetime passes, and we will not do reserved seating. We need everyone who attends the games to be a paying customer to offset the cut in revenue. Each football player, cheerleader and band member will be allowed to purchase up to 4 seats. These will be sold on the Monday before the game. The remaining seats will be sold the following days. Our visiting teams will be sent 500 tickets prior to the game. Unsold tickets will be sold locally.

The changes also impact the concession area. Hamburgers will no longer be sold as we can't do condiments and toppings or any buffet style items. Markers will be put in place on the floor to adhere to social distancing guidelines and plastic barriers put up.

Mr. Graham reported that we had our first back to school meetings today. Mr. Joe Kell made an appearance on our district zoom meeting. Mr. Graham thinks as of right now if the governor stays his course we'll be back face to face soon. As always we will be watching the numbers and any announcements or mandates that are released. We have about 20% of students going virtual this year. Tem Gunter asked what the mood of the teachers was. Ms. Ashley Riggs, Principal at NJHS, said that while the teachers feel we are doing everything we can possibly do to make Nashville as safe as possible there is a level of fear and concern. Mr. Nathan Evans, Principal at NPS, said his teachers are concerned about how to teach their little kids if we go virtual as that will not be an easy task with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Mr. Graham said that he feels good that Nashville School District is as safe as it can be with all of the cleaning and procedures we have in place, including new air cleaning machines purchased today by Mr. James Nichols. We can't do anything about what they do when they go home, but at school we are as prepared as we can be. Mr. Graham said we need to keep the motto for the state this year, PIVOT, in mind as we enter this year. We need to be able to change and adapt with all of these new changes.

There are no resignations for this meeting.

Mr. Graham recommended that we hire Willie Trimble as an ALE aide, taking over 7-8 grade genesis as Phillip Miller has retired. David Hilliard made a motion that we accept the hiring with Jamar Finley seconding. This passed 5-0.

Jamar Finley made a motion to adjourn the meeting with David Hilliard seconding. This passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

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Jerry Wilson-President

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Jamar Finley-Secretary