

MINUTES
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Tuesday, January 27, 2009
6:30 p.m.—Central Administration Building

ATTENDANCE

Board: Chair Mary Wade, Susan Andrews, Ray Butrum, Butch Campbell, Nancy Duggin, David Hopper, Nancy Phillips, and Council Liaison Ron Washington.

Staff: Director Marilyn Mathis, Gary Anderson, Cheryl Harris, Michelle Hummel, Danielle Kaminsky, Crystal Roshon, Priscilla Van Tries, and Lee Wilkerson.

Others: City Staff Attorney Kelley Baker, MEA President Debbie Hickerson, *Daily News Journal* reporter Chasity Gunn, principals, and others.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair Mary Wade called the Murfreesboro City School Board meeting to order at approximately 6:33 p.m. Principal Catherine Stephens led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

OPENING CEREMONY

*Mayor Tommy Bragg presented a Proclamation in Recognition of
School Board Appreciation Week in Tennessee
January 25-31, 2009*

Theme: Empowering Excellence

*Mayor Bragg also recognized Ron Washington for his
service as the City Council's Liaison to the School Board.*

Mrs. Mathis pointed out that student-made artwork, posters, letters, and portraits of the Board have been placed at their desks and around the room in recognition of their dedication and service as board members. Books have also been placed in school libraries. Board members thanked the students and teachers for their time and work on the many items received.

Chair Mary Wade presented Board Member David Hopper with an award from TSBA designating him as a member of the "Quarter Century Club" in appreciation of his twenty-five years of service on the MCS Board.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Representative Laura Beth Jackson addressed the Board explaining the role the Business Education Partnership has played in awarding teachers money for special projects. Nissan Representative Julie Corcoran presented to the BEP a check in the amount of \$75,000 in support of the teacher mini-grant program.
- Congratulations to the MCS teachers who were recipients of BEP mini-grants in November (list attached).
- Presentation of Basketball Trophies to Tournament Winners by Crystal Roshon and Dan Boshers:

Boys	Girls
First Place – John Pittard	First Place: Scales
Second Place – Northfield	Second Place – Cason Lane
Third Place – Scales	Third Place – Erma Siegel
- Mrs. Phillips, as the Board’s representative on the Community Advisory Council, presented a plaque to Kent Syler in recognition of his service on the CAC since 2002, serving as Chair for four of those years. Mr. Syler has agreed to continue serving on the Executive Board for the CAC.
- Dr. Patrick McCarthy has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Community Advisory Council effective February 1, 2009.
- An AT&T Grant has been awarded to MTSU for math/science for a partnership with Hobgood and The Discovery School in the amount of \$19,774.
- The Board has received many thank-you notes for the token of appreciation given to employees in recognition of American Education Week in November and for the holiday treat provided all employees in December.
- Congratulations to Erma Siegel kindergarten teacher Rita Lester who was named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, receiving a \$1,000 award for the school.
- Thanks to Gayle and Scott Porterfield and Kroger Stores for the donation of “Earth Friendly” bags to Mitchell-Neilson Primary. The bags are used by students to carry their instructional materials as they travel among the three second grade Co-Op classes: Traditional, Constructivists, and In-Tech.
- Thanks to Kohl’s Department Stores for their donation of \$500 to the MCS Community Outreach Program.
- Rezoning hearings have been scheduled as follows: Monday, February 2— John Pittard Elementary; Tuesday, February 3— Scales. Letters will be sent home with students who would be affected by the rezoning, ads will be placed

in both local papers, aired on City Cable 3, and announcements will be made on the local radio station.

- Board Chair Mary Wade is the featured guest on *Murphy's Burrow* for the month of January. A clip of the program was shared with the Board and audience.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS (Tab 1)

On motion by Mr. Hopper and second by Dr. Andrews, the following consent agenda item was unanimously approved by roll call.

- A. Minutes of the regularly scheduled board meeting of November 25, 2008 and School Board Retreat held on December 2, 2008

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Revisions to Master Plan (Tab 2)

Mrs. Mathis explained that the revised Master Plan behind Tab 2 reflects the changes agreed upon by the Board at the December 2, 2008 retreat. Mrs. Duggin moved to approve the Master Plan as presented behind Tab 2; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion. Dr. Andrews asked that the revised Master Plan, after approval by the Board, be placed on the school system's website. On roll call: Andrews—yes; Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Hopper—yes; Phillips—yes; Wade. The motion carried.

- B. Approval of Revisions to 2009-2010 Traditional and Alternative Calendars (Tab 3)

Mrs. Mathis stated that due to the dates that the state selected for TCAP testing in the spring of 2010, she is recommending that spring break for the 2009-2010 school year for the traditional calendar be April 12-16 and for the alternative calendar be April 12-23. The county's spring break dates are April 12-16. In response to Dr. Andrews' question, Mrs. Mathis explained that the principals had reviewed and unanimously approved this recommendation, and she has had input from some folks, but no official input (from the calendar committee). Dr. Andrews moved to approve the 2009-2010 traditional and alternative calendars as presented; Mrs. Duggin seconded the motion. On roll call: Andrews—yes; Butrum—yes; Campbell—yes; Duggin—yes; Hopper—yes; Phillips—yes; Wade--yes. The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. FY'08 Audit Report by Crosslin & Associates—Dell Crosslin

Mr. Crosslin referred to the audit document provided to the Board noting that this is an unqualified opinion on all the financial statements, and there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses over internal control in the central school system, no exceptions, and no findings. No transactions during the year were found that were not supported by appropriate accounting policies and principles. Management made certain estimates in the life of capital assets, and the auditors concurred with them. In the past, land, buildings and site improvements were purchased and deeded to the City of Murfreesboro. Prior to the end of the year, the state rule required boards of education to record the property assets and the debt in the City Schools' assets. To meet governmental standards with these entries, \$62.7 million of capital assets and \$34 million of debt were recorded in financial statements that resulted in an increase in net assets of \$28 million.

There was no instance of noncompliance or deficiencies at the central school system level. Adjustments were not related to cash disbursements. A state rule mandates that if you have a receivable that is not collected within 30 days, you cannot record it as a receivable, so you have to make an adjustment. That is what the \$16,000 is related to. There were no significant deficiencies. This was a clean audit. They did not identify any fraudulent or illegal acts. Two items are noted with the first one related to approval of journal entries and the other relative to recordkeeping on journal entries noting that in the nutrition program all documentation was provided but should be retained and filed in a central location for easy access.

On page 17, you note an increase in net assets of \$1.1million. On page 18, you will note an increase in the general purpose school fund of \$1.5 million. There were no exceptions or findings on the major programs, federal grants, etc. They are clean. Activity funds are more on a cash basis than an accrual basis of accounting as required by the state. The system got a “clean bill of health.”

Golena Bell was recognized for her leadership in the audit process, as well Mr. Anderson, the accounting department staff, and school secretaries.

B. School Reports: Mitchell-Neilson Primary, Principal Robin Newell Mitchell-Neilson Elementary, Principal Greg Lyles

Mr. Lyles thanked the Board for their support. Mrs. Newell stated that MNP and MNE collaborate with events, professional development, and families. They provided a video presentation with the students at MNP and MNE sharing experiences at the school. At

MNP, some of the activities featured were the morning greeting from Mrs. Newell, morning meetings in classrooms, exercise during math and the walking trail, academic programs, reading night collaboration with MTSU, safety, after school enrichment, and play. At MNE, some of the activities featured were: the Flip this School initiative with committees (Climate 911, Curb Appeal, Community & School Initiative (CSI), Engaging Students and Families, and Smart School Attributes), new school uniforms, the special education inclusion initiative, the SOAR (Special Opportunities for Acceleration and Reinforcement) program funded by the 21st Century Learning Grant, the science lab, Club Neutron, the outreach program, parent coffees, and the February 26 Parent Extravaganza.

Mrs. Newell and Mr. Lyles thanked the technology support teachers, Mr. Trent Cheeves and Mr. Micky Brooks, for their hard work to produce this presentation.

C. MCS Winter Benchmark Results, January, 2009 -- Danielle Kaminsky
(Tab 4)

Mrs. Mathis stated that she is proud to report the winter benchmark results indicating the percent of students who had scored at the proficient or advanced levels in grades three through six on our Think Link formative assessment test. This assessment is supposed to predict within an 80-90 percent accuracy range how well students will perform on the TCAP tests to be administered in April. This is the second benchmark, and one more will be given before TCAP testing. The Instructional Team--Danielle Kaminsky, Michelle Hummell, Priscilla Van Tries, Crystal Roshon, and Carol Stinson the STAT (State Technical Assistance Team) from the state met with each principal for a comprehensive review of each school's data. They reviewed each school's at-risk list student by student.

Mrs. Kaminsky noted that the winter benchmark is the first benchmark that is based on actual grade level standards for students and is, therefore, the first real predictor of success for TCAP. The instructional team has met twice with principals to review system and building level data at which they identified successes, identified challenges, and brainstormed solutions. Predictive results indicate that MCS is meeting both state and federal annual yearly progress benchmarks at this point. The AYP benchmark for reading/language arts is 89% and AYP for math is 86%. She reviewed the results indicated on the chart behind Tab 4.

In Reading/Language Arts, the overall system data indicated that 94.6% of the students performed at a proficient or advanced level, and in Math 94.1%. Subgroups performed as follows:

Math: White—96.1%; Hispanic—93.3%; Black—90.4%; Asian—94.2%; Economically Disadvantaged—91.4%; ELL—89.6%; Special Ed—81.8%.

Reading/Language Arts: White—95%; Hispanic—87.7%; Black—91.6%; Asian—95.5%; Economically Disadvantaged—92.8%; ELL—81%; Special Ed—88.2%.

The system was placed on the high priority list because of district performance in two subgroups on the spring TCAP exam. In the ELL subgroup, you can see that in math we are currently meeting the benchmark with an 89.6% passing rate and in the Hispanic subgroup in reading/language arts we achieved an 87.7%, which indicates that we will meet this benchmark with the safe harbor or the confidence interval. We hope to achieve AYP outright and have time to get that up. Data indicates we are slightly behind in the reading/language arts benchmarks for ELL where we currently show an 81% passing rate. If we hold this, we would make AYP through safe harbor. There are three ways to meet the benchmarks: outright, safe harbor or confidence interval or a projection. For the special ed (learners with disabilities) we achieved an 88.2% passing rate in reading/language arts indicating we will also meet this benchmark through safe harbor and with an 81.8% passing rate in math indications are we can also achieve the benchmark through safe harbor. Our goal is always to achieve AYP outright by meeting the benchmarks, which is why we do this testing to help keep us informed of the areas we need to strengthen.

We are proud to report that through this data, the initiatives and actions steps we are implementing through our TCSPP process are working. One area that the team has noted as a result of the process is an increase in collaboration throughout the district. Sharing between central office, staff, principal to principal, has increased. Mrs. Kaminsky asked for a round of applause for everyone in the district who has worked very hard for the students.

Mrs. Mathis also thanked the students who have given it their excellent efforts and who are now actually tracking their own progress which encourages them to be accountable and learn. Mrs. Phillips added that it is great for student self-esteem also. Mrs. Phillips thanked Mrs. Kaminsky for all of her efforts in this endeavor.

Mr. Campbell referred to the documents containing information he had requested from Mrs. Kaminsky which were entitled “2008 MCS Fall to Winter Benchmark Results—Math” and one for Reading. As he looked at the comparison between the first and second Think Link tests given, he stated that there is an increase in every category. And even though there may be a couple of places we are not meeting the benchmark status yet, he stated that this is a tribute to the teachers in the classroom and administrators in the trenches for the work they have done. Mrs. Kaminsky agreed that the teachers are on the

front line and work very hard and deserve high praise. Each Board member was given a copy of the report provided to Mr. Campbell.

Mrs. Mathis noted that if these were our scores in April for the TCAP, the system would have met all benchmarks and be off the high priority list. We are very proud of this and thank all hard-working instructional leaders and teachers.

D. Systemwide Equity Assessment Committee Report—Cheryl Harris (Tab 5)

Mrs. Mathis stated that this was on the Board's retreat agenda but was not discussed so is being brought back to the Board.

Mrs. Harris stated that the committee was formed as a result of the request by Mrs. Phillips at the July 9, 2008 Board retreat for a systemwide plan to address equality and equity throughout the system as there is a perception in the community that all schools are not equal. A diverse group of committee members were chosen, as indicated on the report behind Tab 5, after school was back in session. Their first task was to decide what equity was and decided that equity should best be described (in a school situation) as meeting the needs of each student at each school. Additionally, they decided that they could not achieve equality with all the differences in the schools. Equity could be achieved. Mr. Anderson pointed out to them that each school receives the same amount of money based on the state formula for distribution of funds. Equity is already established in a way. The recommendations on how to investigate equity between the schools varied from visits to schools, school inventories, parent surveys, and even contacting other school systems to see if they had an assessment in place. They looked at MNE's Flip This School survey, but it would not work in this situation. The most significant fact that she found was that each principal stated that they were very satisfied with their school and what they had to offer. Each school had their own special identity and offerings. She stated that according to national research, most parents are very pleased with their child's own school even if they may not be with education or a school system. Before they dismissed, the committee decided that they needed to meet with Mrs. Phillips to take direction from her, to receive input from the Board, to determine if they needed to pursue this any further. The new Citizens Advisory Group may be a resource also. In the TCSPP plan, under equity and adequacy in resources, support and personnel to our schools, you will find an overview of basic information on procedures that MCS uses for distribution of Title funds, general purpose funds, grant money, and even use of the City Schools Foundation. Along those lines, we meet equity with pupil:teacher ratios, professional development opportunities, and by zoning. Mrs. Harris read a quote from the TCSPP plan. "The autonomy and individuality of each school building is encouraged in the exploration of instructional methodologies that best meet

the needs of the youngsters in the building.” Principals and school improvement teams may request funds from the Central Office for experts in the field to assist them in meeting the needs of the learners at their campus or for innovative staff development programming. Funding has been supportive of several innovative programs already in place in the system such as assisting Hobgood in the quest to become a NASA Explorer School, integration of the Paideia curriculum at Cason Lane Academy, support provided to Bradley to become a choice school for arts integration, the development of The Discovery School for high achievers, planning and financial support in the development of the alternative calendar schedule used for seven of our schools in the district, and assistance and support in the provision of a comprehensive preschool program for at-risk youngsters.

Mrs. Harris stated that with these and many more initiatives, it is evident that MCS has processes in place and continues to strive to ensure equity and learning opportunities for all the students in our system. She asked the Board to give the committee some direction in which to proceed.

Mrs. Phillips stated that equity is an important issue, even if it is explored and found that we are providing equity throughout the system. She thought the next step should be to present it to our Community Advisory Council and get input from parents, teachers, and community members outside the actual school system.

E. Discussion of Revisions to Board Policies: (Tab 6)

BO 2—Rules of Order

BO 7—Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

Mrs. Mathis stated that Mrs. Baker has provided examples of ways BO 2 and BO 7 could be revised. This was an item on the Board’s retreat agenda that was not discussed so has been brought to the Board for discussion now.

Mrs. Baker: The proposed revisions that you see before you for BO2 and BO7 are revisions based on numerous comments that you have made at various board meetings. It has been boiled down to these revisions. What I need from the Board, in order to create a policy in a final format for you to take action on is to know what if any of these items that have been included in these policies you want to keep or discard. You may want to go through each section individually, or if a Board member has any particular items of interest they wish to discuss, bring those to my attention.

Mrs. Phillips: Are we doing this one policy at a time?

Mrs. Baker: I would suggest that we do the first one in the packet, “Rules of Order.”

Mrs. Wade: I don't see any changes. Does any other board member?

Mrs. Baker: Would everyone like for me to bring this back to you at the next board meeting for action as drafted?

Mrs. Phillips: Do you have any suggestions on a way to make the policy more user friendly?

Mrs. Baker: No, this draft includes all of the changes that I have recommended to you over the various meetings based on your comments and concerns. This is for discussion since you did not get to discuss it at the Board's retreat. I will bring it back to you at the next board meeting as an action item for a final decision.

Dr. Andrews: Do we need to go through each line item, each revision separately?

Mrs. Baker: Yes, if there is a particular line item that you would like to discuss, please do that now.

Mrs. Wade: Is there anything in this policy that you would like to address now?

Dr. Andrews: Yes, in the agenda preparation (BO 7), it sort of totally leaves it to the discretion of the director to prepare agendas for the meeting. Does it not need to involve the chairwoman?

Mrs. Mathis: Yes, in part two it does.

Dr. Andrews: I know it mentions that you would consult with the Board chair.

Mrs. Baker: That is the same way agenda preparation has been done in the past. In fact, it is really not a change in this revision. In state law, it says that the director in consultation with the board chair will develop the agenda. And you may recall from the memo I gave you, based on your comments, I looked at what TSBA recommends and what other school districts of similar size in Middle Tennessee have done and pulled from those policies.

Mrs. Phillips: I have a concern about section three, the agenda approval. It says the first item on the agenda is approval of the agenda. I need clarification. Now, at that point can people add or subtract things from the agenda, or is it approving just what is on the agenda?

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Mrs. Baker: Under the approval of the agenda, for example, if someone wants to rearrange the order of the agenda, which you have been doing without an official item on the agenda, the Board could vote as to whether they want to add an item, whether they want to rearrange the agenda, or whether they want to remove an item from the agenda. It can be put to a vote as to whether the Board as a whole wants the agenda changed in any way prior to that meeting. And I know you have discussed at previous Board meetings that as it stands that a Board member can request that an item be added to the agenda up to the day of the Board meeting. And I know that you have often been given revised agendas when you come to the meeting. So I am not sure if that is a concern, that is an item that you still desire to have in the policy, as it seems to have been working well without that particular item.

Mrs. Phillips: I have a concern about that because to me it means you are bringing something to the Board that possibly no one has had time to prepare for or taking something off the agenda that our staff members have spent many hours preparing for, being paid for by tax dollars. So if they have prepared a report, I want to make sure they have the opportunity to give that report, and I don't want to have anyone blindsided by adding something to the agenda that everyone has not had time to prepare for.

Dr. Andrews: I think this was sort of a compromise that we came up with that there were some people that wanted to bring things up, and we wanted to make sure people are prepared for, so it might be a little awkward but it is a way that we could vote to see if we wanted to have that particular item added to the agenda. We could vote it down if we do not feel we are prepared. I have not had a problem with the way things have been done. I think that is where this came from, but I do have the same concerns you have.

Mrs. Phillips: It says in the proposed revision that after the Board approves the agenda, no discussion or action shall be taken by the Board except on the subjects covered by the approved agenda. You could approve it at that moment and then it could be talked about without everyone being able to prepare. It would not be fair to any program, any person in MCS. I would not want to be surprised like that, and I would like to have everyone treated with the same respect that I would want for myself.

Dr. Andrews: I agree with that, and I would think that probably most of us would vote down any items for the agenda that would do that.

Mrs. Phillips: Also, it does not limit discussion on something brought to the agenda, anything could be discussed or talked about without that person being aware that it is going to be talked about. I have been satisfied with the way things have been done, and if there is an emergency, I think Mrs. Mathis can bring that to our attention without

changing our policy in a way that would open the door to treating our employees in a way I would not want to be treated myself.

Mr. Campbell: We have discussed this many times. At the Board retreat at the Chamber of Commerce, it was my assumption that everybody was in favor of adding something to this agenda so that we could bring up other business without putting it off to the next Board meeting. Now, can you tell me where this is going to be done? Is that going to be in the part of approving the agenda?

Mrs. Baker: You could bring up other business either under approval of the agenda if a Board member wanted to add something to the agenda, and the Board could take a vote as to whether they are in agreement to add it, or if you look at item VI, other business, that was my attempt to reach a compromise on other business.

Mr. Campbell: That is not a compromise. As I read it, it states that an item would be placed on the next Board meeting's agenda. That was not what we have been trying to do. What I want, and I thought we had a consensus, except that Mrs. Phillips had to leave (the retreat), was that it would come up at this meeting that we would have a place in the agenda format where we could bring something up under other business or approval of the agenda.

Mrs. Baker: If a Board member said I want to add item "x" to the agenda and you took a vote and everyone was in agreement, let's add item x to the agenda, it then becomes part of the approved agenda, and it can be discussed at that meeting.

Mr. Campbell: So, if someone wants to bring something up at a meeting that is not on the agenda, under the approval of agenda, I might say I would like to ask a question about so and so. Am I right?

Mrs. Baker: That is correct. Remember, approval of the agenda is a vote; a vote will be taken. So if you want to add an item, a vote is taken, and if everyone is in agreement, then that item can be discussed that night. Approval of the agenda was on your Board agenda tonight.

Mr. Campbell: I realize that, but we didn't discuss it and I assumed that we were waiting until we got to the policy because we did not vote on it at the retreat.

Mrs. Baker: Right. And remember this policy is a combination of all of the various suggestions so it is giving you options. So I would like for you to take, for example, this section and put it to a vote and see if the Board wants this section to remain as written in this policy. Or if you have a suggested revision, make a motion as to how you would like

this number III revised, and take a vote. I need to know exactly how you want this policy written.

Mrs. Phillips: I move that we remove the Agenda Approval section from this policy.

Mr. Hopper: I'll second the motion so we can take a vote.

Mrs. Wade: Is there any discussion?

Mrs. Duggin: I would like to suggest that we look at the retreat minutes on page ten, the three paragraphs at the end of the page because it speaks to this issue. I think Mrs. Baker has done an outstanding job of crafting the policy according to the directive we gave her at the Board's retreat.

Dr. Andrews: One of the things that came from the TSBA meeting was that this was a way for the Board to maintain control over what came up at a meeting, and if there was something uncontroversial someone wanted to talk about that wasn't likely to require anyone to be prepared, that that could be added. But it also would give the majority of the Board an opportunity to not allow issues to be added to the agenda. I think that several of us on the Board would be conservative about what we feel would be appropriate to be added on the agenda.

Mrs. Phillips: I think that is covered in number VI. I remember Mrs. Duggin saying that she did not feel she could compliment Read to Succeed because it was not part of the agenda. Mrs. Wade, do we need to have a policy that would address being able to praise the system in any way?

Mrs. Wade: Any time you want to praise someone or something going on in our system or someone we are affiliated with, that has always been permissible here. It is always good to know in advance; but if you want to praise someone, you can be recognized by the Chair. I have dealt with other organizations that have approval of the agenda, and normally it is what we are looking at. But the question always arises is there anything else you would like to add. I was looking back through the minutes; for example, if someone wanted to talk about rezoning, I would find that to be something that we would wait until the meeting is over, maybe then meet at a special time to discuss it in open meeting, at a time when Mrs. Mathis and her staff could prepare. I think that as adults and Board members, we pretty well know what is permissible to put on at the appropriate time. And I think I addressed it in the minutes of the last meeting that we didn't want to do anything that would blindside anyone or cause any harm, and we are still going to stick to that. But if you have other business, we have the right to vote for or against any discussion on it. It says you can do that in the policy. I know if I bring up something that

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may be a personnel issue, and I know that is something that I can't do, I know that that motion could be voted down. But you have a right if you want to bring up an item for discussion. We have always done this in the past. If you have something you want to discuss, bring it up but be reasonable in what you bring up. If it should not be discussed, vote it off. Mrs. Baker defined it real well when she said other business. There will be times you bring things up that need to be put on the next agenda, and a motion will be made to put it on the next agenda, giving the person a chance to research it. No discussion on it, and it comes back. Mr. Campbell, we talked about it, and I had no problem with it if you said you had something you needed to bring up as long as it could be something that we could discuss at hand.

Mr. Campbell: And that is what I understood from the retreat. Even Dr. Andrews indicated that it was a good idea that we could do it under approval of agenda. I just want to make sure that under approval of the agenda, that if we bring something up it can be on the agenda that night either for discussion or whatever the case may be.

Mrs. Wade: I would hope that each Board member would agree that if you bring it up that there is a chance that a motion would follow to maybe place it on the next month's agenda.

Mr. Campbell: No, my purpose is to place it on the agenda that night if it is voted in favor of.

Dr. Andrews: If it is voted in favor of, it would be. But someone could also instead make a motion that it be brought up at the next meeting.

Mr. Campbell: I agree.

Mrs. Phillips: Doesn't that make number III and number VI somewhat redundant?

Mrs. Baker: And that was the intent. Remember this is a combination of all of the suggestions that I have received. So, I gave you options.

Mrs. Phillips: Well I think option VI is the better of the two, but I think number III opens Pandora's box. We could waste taxpayer's money on programs and discussions and information that our employees have spent time researching and put someone in a position that has not had time to research it. Someone with a personal agenda could inadvertently say something that was hurtful to someone, and that person not have prior knowledge that their name or program was even going to be mentioned at the meeting. I just don't think that is fair to our employees.

Dr. Andrews: And that is what we have to keep in mind every time someone comes up with something they want to put on the agenda. I would think that we would be able to say we are going to vote no.

Mrs. Phillips: And that is why I think if we were going to do either of the two, number VI protects our employees' or people's rights more.

Mrs. Baker: They both open the door to bring up other business. The approval of agenda gives the entire Board the ability to vote whether or not that particular item will be discussed that night. Item VI allows a Board member to say I have this other issue I would like the Board to address, and I would like to see it be put on the next month's Board agenda. It doesn't allow it to be discussed that night. So they are both similar in that they open the door for Board members to bring up other business. One allows the Board to have control over whether that item is actually discussed that night. The other one allows a Board member to request that it be placed on the next month's agenda.

Mrs. Phillips: I think number VI protects our employees better, and at least they know in advance that a program they are involved in would be discussed that night and wouldn't be taken by surprise.

Dr. Andrews: I think the majority of us would not approve an item that would do that.

Mr. Hopper: I am not sure we can do this under state law that grants the authority to establish the agenda to the Director and the Chair. Personally, I have the greatest confidence in the two of them that they would use their wisdom in establishing that and planning the agenda. In my twenty-five years on the Board, I can't think of anything that's been just earth-shaking that's got to be done that night that couldn't be placed on the agenda that day by Board members calling and making the request, and it not be granted if it's suitable. If it wasn't suitable that night, I can't imagine it wouldn't be added the next month. I would prefer us to not do III or the other business part.

Mr. Campbell: Just because we add something to an agenda does not mean it would be a personnel item. Nancy, you keep talking about the employees and I understand that. But there are a lot of things that someone may want to discuss that are not on the agenda and it does not have to be a personnel matter. I am just looking for a way to discuss something at a Board meeting if it is not on the agenda. Otherwise, we have to wait for a month. It has already been stated that if something is brought up, it has to be voted on. If it is a matter that somebody is speaking to the Board, certainly the Chair has an opportunity to close that discussion. I call for a vote.

Mrs. Baker: I need you to vote on a particular section so I can revise the policy to bring back to you to take action on the entire policy.

Mrs. Phillips: My motion was that we remove section III from BO 7.

Mrs. Wade: Mrs. Baker when you brought this format in, did I understand that this was state format?

Mrs. Baker: No, it is based on suggestions that various Board members have given. It is also from TSBA policies and other school system policies. This does not mimic TSBA's or one school system's policies. It is a combination of numerous suggestions. Some school systems did have approval of agenda, not all did, but I found a couple that did. I looked at their language to help formulate the language to draft this policy.

Dr. Butrum: What does the City Council do?

Ron Washington: The City Manager brings up other business if he has to, but we do not. We can come beforehand and request certain things, and we can have things pulled from the agenda before the meeting. But, we do not bring up other business. We can suggest things to the City Manager, but we do not. Mainly because those agendas are publicized to the public so the public would know what is going to be discussed.

Mrs. Baker: The only things I have ever seen Council do under other business is if we have a contract that needs Council approval in order to, like if it is close to the holidays and Council won't meet for a couple of weeks, we need their approval and their signatures and it didn't have time to be placed on the agenda. That is the type of thing that comes up under other business with the Council. It is never anything with wide public impact on the public, never anything that would require a public meeting--none of those issues, never a vote on an ordinance, or any of those things.

Mrs. Duggin: I know that Mr. Washington addressed other business, but what does City Council do about approval of the agenda?

Mr. Washington: Approval of the agenda is at the beginning of the meeting.

Mrs. Phillips: But you don't add anything to the agenda. You just approve exactly what is written.

Mr. Washington: We approve exactly what is written, and we do have some things withdrawn but that is because of conversations before you got there. It is okay to withdraw things but to add something is a different thing.

Mr. Campbell: Could the City Manager add when you approve the agenda?

Mr. Washington: He doesn't. He brings up things under other business like she said.

Mrs. Phillips: Only the City Manager brings up things under other business.

Mr. Washington: It is like she said, contracts and those things that are time imperative.

Mr. Campbell: If you are talking about publishing the agenda, once that agenda is published nothing can be changed?

Mr. Washington: Normally not, because that is how we notify the public. We made a mistake a few weeks ago on Main Street. There was some confusion and the meeting was at 5:00. They didn't know that so we didn't address the issue. They will come back tomorrow.

Mr. Campbell: We don't fall in that category because we don't publish our agenda.

Mrs. Baker: Yes, it is on the website and Channel 3.

Mr. Campbell: So what if the agenda is changed in the afternoon at 4:00?

Mrs. Baker: Then it should be changed on the website as well.

Mrs. Wade: The way that you have it worded on the approval of the agenda is excellent. If something came up during the meeting, then unless it was earth shattering, it could be prepared for the next meeting. For example, if you had a question following the school's presentation, that is not something that would have to be put off.

Mrs. Duggin: In light of your comments, if we are looking specifically at what Mrs. Baker has provided us, and you look at number III, agenda approval, I do not see anywhere where it is written as it is presented to us tonight that anything can be added to that agenda except to approve the agenda. I don't know why we would want to remove that because it is pretty standard to approve the agenda, and it can be rearranged if someone is there to present and needs to leave.

Mrs. Phillips: I have no problem approving an agenda as it is already set, but if approving this item number III opens the door to adding things to the agenda, I cannot approve that.

Dr. Andrews: I think it can be construed that something could be added.

Mrs. Phillips: Let me understand very clearly, Mrs. Baker. The way it is written now, if it is approved, does it allow people to add things to the agenda?

Mrs. Baker: I can clarify if the Board desires that it is not intended to permit adding items to the agenda but to rearrange or remove items, if that is the Board's desire.

Mrs. Wade: Do you want to repeal your motion?

Mrs. Phillips: Yes, I would like to.

Mr. Hopper: I remove my second to the original motion.

Mrs. Phillips: I make my motion to authorize Mrs. Baker to go back and develop language that under agenda approval nothing can be added to the agenda but items can be rearranged or removed.

Mr. Campbell: But nothing added?

Mr. Hopper: I second the motion. But with the publication notice, what we are talking about is moot anyway.

Mrs. Wade: She is asking her in the motion to put these things in there.

Mr. Hopper: But with the publication requirement, we couldn't add items anyway.

Mrs. Phillips: Mrs. Baker, what are the publication requirements?

Mrs. Baker: You have to advertise when your meetings are and generally what they are about, if it is a regular meeting. If it is a special meeting, you have to advertise specifically what the meeting is going to be about and only discuss the item advertised.

Mrs. Ridley: Mrs. Phillips moved that under Approval of Agenda, items can be rearranged or taken off but cannot be added.

Mr. Campbell: So number VI states that if you want to discuss something at tonight's Board meeting and it is not on the agenda, it cannot be discussed. Is that correct?

Mrs. Wade: That is true.

Mr. Campbell: So we will not have anywhere in this policy for Nancy Phillips to bring up anything of interest or whatever at the Board meeting to be discussed tonight; it could

be brought up but would have to be put off until the next Board meeting to discuss. Am I correct?

Mrs. Wade: You do have something for other business that can be brought up, but you may not be able to have a full-blown discussion over it. No one is taking away other business. You can say I would like to discuss uniforms, the public would know it, it can be placed on the next month's agenda, and everyone would have a chance to prepare for it with the research provided to them. You like to have all your facts and have the work done.

Mr. Campbell: It takes other business away from being discussed that night.

Mrs. Wade: Yes sir.

Mrs. Ridley: After approval of the agenda...

Dr. Andrews: It should read before approval of the agenda as after approval, nothing can be done.

Mrs. Ridley: Before approval of the agenda, the Board can remove an item from the agenda or rearrange items on the agenda, but cannot add an item to the agenda.

On roll call: Andrews—yes; Butrum—yes; Campbell—no; Duggin—yes; Hopper—yes; Phillips—yes; Wade—yes. The motion carried.

Mrs. Phillips: I would like to discuss number VI. In a way, it seems to me that number VI is just simply not necessary. Because if at any time a Board member can call the Chair or Director to have an item put on the agenda, I don't know why we would need number VI.

Dr. Andrews: I do think there are times when we have suggested that an item be added to the next month's agenda in a natural flow of events.

Mrs. Phillips: I think once again you are opening the door to language that could be objectionable. As my mother used to say, it is not what you say but how you say it. One could suggest an item or topic be placed on the agenda that would infer something negative even without discussion. Once again, a program, person involved, or parents could be taken off guard. It could possibly be objectionable or have a negative inference.

Mr. Campbell: I think other business just tells us how we can have something placed on the next Board's agenda.

Mrs. Wade: I have seen meetings where the Board Chair would ask if there is anything else to be said. In meetings, we have blurted out that we want to talk about something, and a motion is made to put this on next month's agenda. That gives everyone a chance to bring it back to the next meeting. No matter what you call it, you are always going to have someone with a question at the end of the meeting they want to discuss that might require research or for Mrs. Baker to bring us information on. My only comment is that I feel that through the respect for the other members of the Board, respect for our teachers, our employees, we would be kind in what we say and at least before you say it run that question through your mind to see how you would react if that question were put to you. In a nutshell, it is respect. We care about all of our employees to a point that we would not jump out there and say something. During the course of the meeting, if you want to slip me a note and say I want to see us talk about this, or ask me right before the meeting, I have no problem with that. We are going to have to come to a consensus on this. Mrs. Baker did a good job with this. As Board Chair, my job is to keep the meeting in order. Respect you to say that it is something we are not going to be able to talk about, it is going to be on the (next) agenda, and if I need to, I'll ask for a vote. I think we can work with that, but we need to get beyond other business and figure out how we can work with other business.

Mrs. Phillips: I move that we change number VI, and we have it in the same format as City Council that the Director and Board Chair can bring up other business, eliminating "a" and "b" under number VI. Mrs. Mathis would be cognizant of what is needed as other business, or a Board member can speak to the Director or the Board Chair.

Dr. Andrews: I don't understand. Could you still bring up other business for the next agenda?

Mrs. Phillips. No, Mrs. Mathis and Mrs. Wade work for two weeks to set up the agenda, and a Board member can contact them, even the next day, to have an item added to the agenda. But other than an item such as contracts or a business item that must be dealt with in a timely way, I can't see any reason to bring up topics in any way that have not already been placed on the agenda. If it happens, then it needs to happen under the guise of our Director or Board Chair.

Mrs. Wade: So do you want other business to read that "Other business is for the sole purpose of the Board Chair or Director of Schools to request that an item or issue to be placed on the next Board's agenda. No discussion of the item or issue shall take place when brought up under other business."

Mrs. Phillips: Yes.

Dr. Andrews: In that motion, Mrs. Wade just read that the Chair or Director of Schools could not bring up an item or issue to be placed on the agenda for discussion that night. But what you meant was that if there was something urgent, time wise, but not of public interest, they could bring it up.

Mrs. Phillips: I make the motion that under number VI that we strike the existing “a” and “b” and that we follow under other business the same format as City Council whereas our Director of Schools or Board Chair can bring up items for discussion at the current meeting that is timely and not of great public interest.

Dr. Andrews: We could add that it says every effort will be made by the Chair and Director of Schools to have items placed on the agenda before the meeting.

Mrs. Ridley: Mrs. Phillips, your motion is that the Board gives authority to the Director of Schools and Board Chair to add an item under other business for discussion that evening, items that would not be of such public interest that they would need to be advertised prior to discussion.

Mr. Campbell: Who will determine the severity of the items? The Board?

Mrs. Phillips: The Director and the Chair.

Dr. Butrum: So our individual rights as a Board member elected by the taxpayers to bring up an item not for a vote but for discussion is being eliminated here? I would have to bring it up to the Board Chair, Mrs. Wade.

Mrs. Wade: No as I said in the beginning, if you have an item you wish to be discussed, you can slip me a note.

Dr. Butrum: And then you would bring it up.

Mrs. Phillips: Or choose not to.

Mrs. Wade: Yes. Is there a second for the motion?

Dr. Andrews seconded Mrs. Phillips’ motion.

Mrs. Wade: Is there any other discussion on other business?

Mr. Campbell: I am just concerned that we are limiting ourselves as Board members for discussion on an item without it being done so much, much in advance. We also have to

remember that Mrs. Wade is not always going to be Chair and Mrs. Mathis is not always going to be the Director. The next chair may not do that.

Mrs. Wade: You can always revisit a policy for clarification or revision even if we are not here.

Mr. Campbell: I understand, but we have been discussing this since about May or June. We can't talk about it one night and vote on it.

Dr. Andrews: That is because we are a publicly elected Board that is responsible to let the public know what we are going to talk about.

Mr. Campbell: I think sometimes the public wants us to make decisions and not wait four or five months to do so. I am ready to vote.

Dr. Butrum: If we vote to not approve this motion, does that leave the current writing as our policy or would we look at something different next month?

Mrs. Wade: If this motion dies, you have the right to go back and make another motion that you would like to revisit other business, but I suggest that you revisit it with Mrs. Baker.

Dr. Butrum: Okay.

Mrs. Wade: But I was hoping that we could get this resolved. Even if you put it in the hands of the Director and Board Chair, you still have the right as a Board member to bring up other business. You just may not get to blurt it out in a meeting. You still have the right to bring the item up before both of us. If it is an item we can discuss, okay; but if not, it will be added to the next agenda.

Dr. Butrum: But this verbiage would remain a policy for us if this is denied.

Mrs. Baker: What I am trying to get from the Board tonight is direction as to how they want the final policy presented to them next month.

Dr. Butrum: Okay that was my question.

Mrs. Duggin: A point of clarification—legally in state law, what does it actually say about the other business piece? I need that clarified in my own mind.

Mrs. Baker: Other business is not addressed in state law. That is at the various boards' discretion. It is addressed as far as a special meeting. You have to only discuss what is advertised for a special meeting.

Mrs. Wade: Then what you have here in item VI could remain as is. We have had to have special meetings making sure everybody could meet. We have had called meetings for budget before. If something extremely important comes up, Mrs. Mathis can poll the Board for a special meeting. If you bring it up tonight, you have not let the public know that you were going to discuss it that night. That is why I liked the language in item VI in that it would not be discussed that night. That gives you a chance to post it for the next meeting and let the public know.

Mrs. Baker: The motion that is before the Board saying that the Chair and Director can bring up an item under other business and have it discussed, that is already the Chair's and Director's prerogative because they are the two by state law that are required to create the agenda.

Mrs. Phillips: Mrs. Baker, under the current language in other business, if a Board member brought up something to discuss could the Board make a motion and choose to not discuss it at the next meeting?

Mrs. Baker: The Board has the prerogative to make motions on any items brought up and can vote it up and down. The Director and the Chair have the discretion to create the agenda under state law. If the Board voted to not include an item on an agenda, then it would not be on the agenda.

Dr. Andrews: Under other business as it is written now, if I would like to put this on next month's agenda, the Director and Chair would decide whether it went on the agenda.

Dr. Butrum: But at that time we would not have to take action on an item, but we could discuss and have input from other Board members such as yes we think this would be a good idea, and one Board member may make a good suggestion for the staff or Mrs. Mathis to prepare for the next meeting. That way, we don't have one Board member calling you and asking you to put an item on the agenda. We would have everyone hearing the item, and they would have input on what they would want in a report.

Mrs. Baker: I want to make sure that you understand that adding this item to the policy doesn't take away a Board member's ability to contact the Director or Board Chair between meetings and request that an item be placed on the agenda. You still have that available to you as a Board member.

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Mrs. Phillips: Dr. Butrum that sounds like there would be discussion, and it says no discussion would take place.

Dr. Butrum: But no action taken.

Mr. Campbell: Unless the Chair and Board votes to discuss it. But the Board can vote to discuss it if they want to.

Dr. Andrews: Not under this.

Mr. Campbell: This is really about next month's agenda. You can bring it up but you can't discuss unless the Chair agrees, Mrs. Wade.

Mrs. Wade: I hear where you can bring it up but right behind it, it says no discussion on the items will take place. The only thing would be to ask Mrs. Mathis to see who would be involved. You cannot discuss it the night it is brought up.

Dr. Butrum: As an example, I know we talked about looking at the tuition charged out-of-county students. I know that is not on the agenda tonight, but I am going to be calling you and asking that you put it on the next month's agenda. But if I would have said tonight I would like for that to be discussed on next month's agenda, everyone here would have been able to say that's a good idea or we need to get someone to investigate this aspect of that request. By asking you tonight, everyone would be able to have that input where they would not if I just called you and asked you at the office.

Dr. Andrews: If you called her at the office and asked that it be put on the agenda and it goes on the agenda, then we see it on the agenda and call Mrs. Mathis to get other reports and information.

Mrs. Wade: You can carbon both of us, but I do ask that if you have something you want you definitely keep the Director in the loop. Mrs. Mathis has access to everyone who can answer these questions. I do ask--I reiterate this again. It goes to Mrs. Mathis, and she can get the answer to a question faster than me. The best thing to do is to send it to her, and she will carbon me. But if it is just me you want to talk to, then call me.

Mrs. Phillips: My motion about changing it to add that Mrs. Mathis and Mrs. Wade have the ability to add something to the agenda businesswise for example, they already have that right. In that case, I withdraw my motion.

Dr. Andrews: Would that mean during the meeting--I guess nothing would come up during the meeting that you wouldn't know about ahead of time.

Mrs. Baker: Typically if they have something that needs to be added, they add it before the meeting. They do have the ability to, and I know it has been done as I know contracts, particularly grants and sometimes we get notice from federal government the day of our Board meeting we need Board approval.

Mrs. Phillips: In that case since that would be redundant since they already have that right, since this does not address what Mr. Campbell wanted, I move that we strike number VI.

Dr. Andrews: I withdraw my second (to the original motion).

Mr. Hopper: I'll second so we can vote on it.

On roll call: Andrews—no; Butrum—no; Campbell—no; Duggin—no; Hopper—yes; Phillips—yes; Wade--no. The motion failed.

Dr. Andrews: So other business is still on the agenda. But all it is, is that you can say you want to put it on the agenda and it is in your laps (Board Chair and Director) to decide if it will be put on the agenda.

Mrs. Wade: That's right.

F. Continuation of Discussion of Board Work Sessions – Nancy Duggin

Mrs. Mathis stated that this item was not decided at previous meetings so has been brought back to the Board for discussion.

Mrs. Duggin: If it is the feeling of the Board that we do not need to have on our calendar ongoing work sessions, special meetings, and I don't want to get caught up in just the terminology, we are just talking about additional meetings to discuss Board issues. I understand that every Board meeting has to meet the Sunshine Law with an agenda. We are looking at some unprecedented times with the economic situation as it is. If we can try some work sessions, and before the next Board meeting have the dates put on our calendars a long period of time in advance just as we do with the regular Board meetings. If we could try some Board work sessions just to discuss the budget and make sure that all Board members can attend. My motion would be that on a trial basis for work sessions that we could go ahead and determine two or three times to meet for the sole purpose of discussing the budget. The dates at the pleasure of the Board. That between the February meeting and the date the budget is due to the City Council that we could know pretty soon what those are. Mrs. Ridley could poll us.

Dr. Andrews: I think you have a good idea to set those meetings up more in advance. We have met in special meetings to discuss the budget in prior years.

Mrs. Duggin: The motion would allow Mrs. Ridley to go ahead and poll the Board to set up meetings to discuss the budget before the first of April. Mrs. Mathis, when does the budget go to the Council?

Mrs. Mathis: The first of May. We actually have on our annual calendar that we bring you in February our schedule for all of the meetings for the budget and when the budget approval would be by you and then when the budget approval would be by the Council. I agree you do need to get some dates on your calendars early.

Dr. Andrews: Do we even need this motion?

Mrs. Mathis: We will certainly do it and if you would like to have the motion to assure that we do it, we certainly will. But we will get some dates and get them early for you.

Mrs. Duggin: I would like to have those dates set before the February meeting.

Mrs. Phillips: How is this different than what we have done in the past, exactly?

Mrs. Mathis: Probably not terribly different except that we will poll you a little earlier.

Mrs. Wade: Do you have in mind how many meetings you were thinking about?

Mrs. Duggin: Let's do three and if we need to cancel the last one we can.

Mr. Campbell: Do you propose the time of day for this meeting?

Mrs. Mathis: We typically have met in a lunch session.

Mr. Campbell: For those who have a fulltime job, it would be difficult for us to take off several more times to meet. I know it would be for me.

Mrs. Mathis: We will just poll everyone and if everyone cannot meet at lunch, then we will not set it for lunch. We will make sure that you all can attend.

Mr. Hopper: Were you looking at these in lieu of retreats that we have had in the past?

Mrs. Duggin: No, I know that we have had two retreats since I joined the board. I think we need to leave the door open for special meetings maybe more than in the past to make

sure that if we cannot complete business at a regular meeting that we can take care of that business at that time.

Mr. Hopper: I think it will be hard to get another meeting in every month.

Mrs. Duggin: I am not suggesting that we put in another meeting every month.

Mrs. Duggin: I withdraw my motion.

Dr. Andrews: I withdraw my second.

Mrs. Wade: In the past, we have had retreats that lasted two days and that provided ample time. Cutting back to a few hours makes it hard to complete discussion of items on the agenda. You may want to think about making it a two-day retreat again.

G. Discussion of Ways to Utilize Technology to be More Informed of the Day-to-Day Things that Occur Within the System; i.e., "Post Questions of Interest to All Our Stakeholders Via the Net" – Ray Butrum

Dr. Butrum: That was my suggestion. Again, I really don't think that we need to discuss ways, I think that we should start to utilize our website much like we are going to be doing with the rezoning now. Maybe we could as a Board discuss and put a question on the website every month where we would get information back the following month. Because so many of us come to these meetings and say I have talked to so and so and depending on the circle you run with depends on who you talk to. So I think we could get a better view of the general public putting the question on the website. And it may be something as simple as do you think the system should consider rezoning the entire system. Something where we would get input back from the community at large; it would enhance our communication with the stakeholders and taxpayers. It would also give them a little bit better voice than what most of them probably get at this point.

Mrs. Phillips: You know I think voice is very important. I agree with Dr. Butrum on that. Perhaps the questions could go to the Community Advisory Council because they are supposed to be very representative of our community and that would be a really great place for that to happen.

Dr. Butrum: It would be good to have them answer the question also but, remember I am trying to reach out with our technology, what we already have and what we are able to do, and involve many stakeholders beyond the twenty to twenty-five Community Advisory members.

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Mr. Campbell: Doesn't the *News Journal* on page two oftentimes have those questions and surveys? I agree with the Internet, but everybody doesn't have Internet, and we have a lot of families represented in our schools that don't have the Internet, and maybe not the newspaper either, but some of them may have the newspaper and not the Internet and they could always respond to the newspaper. I just think if we are trying to get a broad section...

Dr. Butrum: Well, we could also Mr. Campbell if we announce the question, like our question for February if we announce it at the end of the meeting tonight, we would be announcing it to the public on TV and they could respond. It just helps open up communication to the public and our stakeholders and I think that is one of our goals in our TCSPP.

Mrs. Phillips: I have a concern about anonymous responses. I am not sure how much credibility I can give if a person does not sign their name.

Dr. Butrum: Well, I am talking about yes or no questions, like the issue last summer with the air-conditioning on buses. Should we look at spending money on air conditioning for buses? I really don't want the personal blogs that the DNJ has. I am just saying that this would give us lot of credibility to the public and taxpayers by letting us get a majority of what they think.

Mrs. Phillips: Well it just scares me. I think it is opening a Pandora's box.

Dr. Andrews: One of the problems I see with that is that I have seen recent cases where there is ballot stuffing on those kinds of polls where a person gets a whole bunch of people to vote one way and vote over and over. So it can be misleading. I am not sure how much validity I would give to something like that. You are still talking anonymous with yes or no.

Dr. Butrum: And it wouldn't be the validity that would be in question. I think it would be the information we are trying to garner from the public.

Dr. Andrews: Yes that would be in question.

Mrs. Wade: I had asked Dr. Butrum about the technology part of the question because I misunderstood it, too. But he explained what he meant by it, and I had asked him what part the Board played. He explained that we would be in charge of making up the question on the website for them to answer. I too had concerns like everybody else. I didn't want everybody to use that as sounding block like they do in the newspaper. And I worried about some of the things that would be said instead of answering the question.

Somebody might jump out in left field and say some things. I don't know how we would curtail that and when you don't have names, you can't go back and find out what they meant by their answer. Is there a way to just have a yes or no answer with nothing written behind it?

Mrs. Mathis: Well, if everyone said they wanted air conditioning on buses, does that mean you would put air conditioning on buses?

Mrs. Phillips: Even if it said yes or no, we could get the American Idol syndrome going where one person punches yes, yes, yes, and then how much validity could we as a Board give to anonymous results that could be very invalid.

Dr. Andrews: I have seen that happen with the Internet kind of questions.

Mrs. Wade: Mrs. Mathis, could you look into whether people give questions to us over the Internet. Is there a place for them to submit questions to us?

Mrs. Mathis: Yes, it is on our web page as one of the first things listed there invites the public to email you all. All of your email addresses are listed under the Board's tab. Some of you use your personal email addresses, and some of you have chosen to use your system email address which then means that we forward it to you.

Mrs. Wade: So it is used some.

Mrs. Mathis: As much as the public would want to use it, it is used. I think if anybody wanted to contact you, they could go to the web page to see what your email address is. And of course when you registered to run for office, your address was listed so they could write to you at your home. That is public information. We don't list your addresses on the webpage because you haven't asked us to; but if you wanted us to, we would.

Mrs. Wade: I think there may be in the near future, like after the zoning meetings, people may use the web page to contact us, and they are entitled to. There are feelings out there. We are going to talk about a lot of new things in this new year. I don't think posting questions will die. I think it will come back. Thank you Dr. Butrum for your suggestion, and we have had some conversation. The web site is available for folks to contact us. Maybe this is something the Board will wish to do, to post a question out there and get answers.

H. Personnel Update (Tab 7)

Mrs. Mathis shared the following personnel information:

1. Persons Completing Ninety Days of Employment:

April Billings	ESP Secretary	Scales
JerRicas Gentry	Special Ed E.A.	Northfield
Cynthia Hall	ESP Site Director	Erma Siegel
Cheryl Savage	E.A.	John Pittard
Benjamin Vance	ESP Site Director	Northfield
Christine Wright	Media E.A.	Erma Siegel
2. New Hires for 2008-2009
3. Interim Teachers Hired for 2008-2009
4. Retirements and Resignations 2008-2009

Mrs. Phillips: Are we doing exit interviews on our employees?

Mr. Wilkerson: Yes. It is in our administrative directive.

I. Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report (Tab 8)

Mrs. Mathis noted that as of December, the system has completed half the fiscal year. With the economy, the system is fortunate to not have a gloom and doom picture helping us to keep the focus on children. Mr. Anderson stated that the main comparison is that we are still in the hole until property tax comes in. This report represents sales tax revenue coming in through October, but we actually have now received November. The system is only \$18,000 behind in sales tax revenue for five months, which is good as we budgeted conservatively on that. The property tax revenue through five months is up slightly from where it was last year, 0.14%. The system is on target for revenue right now as long as the economy doesn't get worse. On the expense side, we are on target as well.

Dr. Andrews: I know you will keep us apprised, and I know we are all concerned about what will come.

Mr. Hopper: The pupil transportation expense is up about \$200,000.

Mr. Anderson: We bought two buses at the beginning of the year so it skews the expenses up front but will catch up towards the end.

J. Attendance Report (Tab 9)

Mrs. Mathis reported that K-6 enrollment totals 6,865 students with an additional preschool enrollment of 367 for a total enrollment of 7,232 students. Looking at K-6 in comparing our numbers to last years' at this time, we are two students ahead. The system's enrollment is pretty much staying with last year's enrollment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Butrum seconded the motion. Mrs. Wade adjourned the Murfreesboro City School Board meeting at approximately 9:33 p.m.

Director of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT
*To assure academic and personal success
for each child.*