

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
December 11, 2012

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/MOTION	FOLLOW-UP/OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call 	<p>Present: Cheryl D. Mayes, Chair Dr. Jo Ann Brannon Amy Frogge Dr. Sharon Gentry Michael W. Hayes Elissa Kim Will Pinkston Anna Shepherd, Vice-Chair Jill Speering Akaninyene Eyoh; Marquetta Bowling, Student Board Members Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools</p> <p>Ms. Mayes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge of Allegiance 	Led by Mr. Eyoh and Ms. Bowling, student Board members.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Board Member Report 	<p>Ms. Bowling made the following comments:TMAC (Teens Making A Change) completed the second phase of student leadership training on November 29th at the Nashville Youth Opportunity Center, facilitated by Mr. James Flatt. The students completed personal vision statements and then worked in two groups to craft a TMAC vision statement. The TMAC advisors will meet to complete the process. Mr. Eyoh made the following comments: TMAC's next meeting is scheduled for January 14th. We are asking for TMAC student advisors to participate in the Mid-South PeaceJAM Conference. It will be hosted by STARS and Belmont University on January 26th and 27th. Students will spend the weekend with Nobel Peace Laureate, Shirin Ebadi, learning, sharing and being inspired.</p>	
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reward Schools Ambassador Program Participants: Frankie Harris, Rose Park Middle and Kathleen Turnmire, MLK Magnet 	The Board and Dr. Register recognized Ms. Frankie Harris and Ms. KathleenTurnmire as Reward Schools Ambassador Program participants, as designated by the Tennessee Department of Education.	
GOVERNANCE ISSUES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIONS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consent 	<p>Ms. Shepherd read the following consent agenda items: IV-A-1-a- Approval of Minutes – 11/13/12 Regular Meeting; IV-A-1-b- Recommended Contract Extension (Amendment A) for Design and Construction Managment Services – Heery International, Inc. – L-2715; IV-A-1-c- Awarding of Bids and Contracts (1.) Learning Labs, Inc., (2.) Tennessee College Access & Success Network, (3.) Vanderbilt University, Center for Science Outreach, (4.) NCS Pearson, Inc., (5.) Dearborn</p>	

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1. Consent - continued	<p>National Life Insurance Company, (6.) Dearborn National Life Insurance Company, (7.) Southern Educational Systems; IV-A-1-d- Recommended Approval of Requests for Compulsory Attendance Waiver; IV-A-1-e- Recommended Approval of Retainer Agreement for Southern Strategy Group as Lobbyist for Coalition of Large School Systems (CLASS); IV-A-1-f- Recommended Approval of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget Amendment #1 (Budget and Finance Committee).</p> <p>Dr. Brannon moved to approve the consent agenda as read. Ms. Speering seconded.</p>	VOTE: 9-0 - Unanimous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Disciplinary Appeal 	<p>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to deny a request for the hearing. Mr. Hayes seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Shepherd made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Administration. Mr. Hayes seconded.</p>	<p>VOTE: 8-0-1 (Pinkston Abstain)</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0-1 (Pinkston Abstain)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Reduction of \$3.4 Million in BEP Funding 	<p>Mr. Hayes asked, if under the current Employment Handbook, the Board has the authority to make an across-the-board salary cut? Mr. Ott said, currently, the district is not under a contract or collaborative conferencing. Therefore, that would be an option for the Board to consider. Ms. Mayes asked what are our options if the \$3.4 million is not returned? Mr. Henson said there are two ways to look at the issue. 1. At this point, there is a possibility that the \$3,374,933.00 will not be refunded which was taken from our October State BEP payment. Then one course of action could be to attempt to identify expenditures in that amount that could be reduced during the fiscal year. It becomes much more difficult to begin to make reductions mid-year, due to personnel and school schedules that are already in place. 2. The other course of action would be to consider the reduction as a revenue shortfall based upon what was originally projected. In that case, potential other areas of revenues that might exceed projections could cover the loss of funds. If those options do not work, a reduction from the district's fund balance reserve would be taken. Mr. Hayes asked if utilizing the district's reserves required Metro Council's permission? Mr. Henson said, typically, revenue adjustments are not made at the Council level. In 2008-09, MNPS had a shortfall in sales tax revenues and a supplemental appropriation was needed. Supplemental appropriations are handled thru the Metro Finance Department. Ms. Frogge said the Board has two questions to consider. One is whether or not the Board wants to pursue litigation against the State. There is a deadline approaching</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Reduction of \$3.4 Million in BEP Funding – continued 	<p>concerning this issue. If the Board decides not to litigate, discussions must be held concerning how the money will be replaced. We have received legal advice stating that we have every right to sue, and political advice stating that we may not want to sue. I would like to hear other Board members' thoughts on litigation.</p> <p>Ms. Frogge made the motion to litigate against the State Department of Education. Ms. Speering seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Shepherd said she agrees with Ms. Frogge and believes that the Board has the right to litigate, and maybe even the responsibility, because those monies directly affect students in MNPS. But litigation could be or become a distraction. Ms. Speering said \$3.4 million is a lot of money, and the district clearly has the need for funds for technology for schools. Ms. Speering said she was concerned that the Metro Council may not give the district full funding due to the Board choosing to not pursue the State concerning returning the funds. Ms. Mayes said she was part of the Student Assignment Plan implementation and lawsuit, and many hours were spent over the three years focused on that lawsuit. The same amount of time or more could be spent litigating against the State, which is not a smart thing to do. We need to figure how to work a plan to keep the district from having further budget problems. Dr. Register said his recommendation is to not file suit. It is more productive if we work to develop common understanding with the Commissioner and Governor. His hope is that the funds will be returned to the district. Ms. Frogge said she believes if the Board decided to litigate, it will not be expensive or time-consuming. How does the loss of funding affect particular schools? I've heard that the funding could affect charters differently? Mr. Henson said we were advised regarding the calculation of the per pupil amount that is transferred to Charter Schools based upon the State Department of Education formula, to not reduce the calculation for that purpose by the \$3.4 million. This should be considered a fine to the school district, as if we received the funding and then paid the fine back to the State Department. We were also advised that the BEP allocation has not changed, and this should be treated as a fine. Therefore, the full amount would be included in the charter school calculation. Ms. Frogge said charters will be funded and regular schools would not? Dr. Register said the district is subject to the penalty. Whether that is passed along to individual school allocations would be a recommendation that we would make on how to solve the shortfall. Mr.</p>	<p>VOTE: 1-8 (Frogge-yes)</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Reduction of \$3.4 Million in BEP Funding - continued 	<p>Hayes asked Ms. Frogge did her motion advocate for outside counsel? Ms. Frogge said she raised a question about outside counsel and assumed that we would be able to ask further questions tonight. At the last meeting, she made a motion concerning independent counsel, and it was voted down. Mr. Hayes asked if the fund balance could be used for other expenses? Mr. Henson said the fund balance exists for revenue shortfalls and emergency-type expenditures. The Board could vote to use the fund balance for any purpose, and that process would include the Metro Council. Mr. Hayes said it would seem that this situation is a revenue shortfall and an emergency. It would seem appropriate to use the fund balance for that type of expenditure. Mr. Henson said if we are looking at it from a revenue shortfall perspective, if there is a chance that the funding could be given back to the district or if other revenues could cover the shortfall, my recommendation would be to wait until closer to the end of the fiscal year before action is taken. Monitoring the revenue projections and collections through the fiscal year would be a better approach if there is a possibility that MNPS could be refunded the \$3.4 million. Mr. Hayes asked what is the current fund balance? Mr. Henson said on June 30, 2012 the fund balance was \$55 million, which represents about 7.6% of the district's operating expenditures. Mr. Hayes asked how large would the Metro Finance Director like the fund balance to be? Mr. Henson said he believed the Finance Director would like the fund balance to be as large as possible. Mr. Hayes asked what is a stable number concerning the fund balance? Mr. Henson said Metro policy is a 5% fund balance minimum, and the State recommends a 3% fund balance.</p>	
REPORTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race to the Top Funding 	<p>Dr. Register announced that the district did not receive the most recent Race to the Top grant funding, placing 40th out of 400 applicants. MNPS' application was great, and Dr. Register commended the staff responsible for its submission. The competition was extreme, and we missed by a small margin. This grant application will be a visionary document for action/next steps for MNPS. The Vision aspect of the application received a perfect score, and it will be shared with the community and implemented in the very near future. By implementing the next steps, we will position the district to receive funding next year. Mr. Pinkston stated there were hundreds of school districts competing for the Race to the Top funding, and MNPS placing in basically the top 10% in districts around the country is a remarkable example of the direction of MNPS. MNPS outpaced New York City, Cleveland, Salt Lake City, and other reform-minded districts. I congratulate everyone that was</p>	

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	involved in the process. Ms. Mayes stated that MNPS was the only district in Tennessee that was included in the finalists.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TLG Report: Technology/Data Management 	<p>Fred Carr and Laura Hansen presented the TLG Report: Technology/Data Management to the Board.</p> <p>Mr. Hayes asked if students currently bring their personal devices into the school, but the Wi-Fi is not open for those students to connect? Mr. Carr said Wi-Fi is available in some schools, and we are working on implementing it in others. The MNPS district cell phone policy is that students can bring devices to school. Ms. Shepherd asked how many computers will have to be refreshed by 2014? Mr. Carr said MNPS needs approximately \$9 million to refresh and to add to the computer inventory, which would provide 12,000 devices. Ms. Shepherd asked how many blended classrooms are there? Dr. Ray stated that all of the AP and IB classrooms will be fully blended by January. There are also schools in the Innovation Zone that are blended. Mr. Pinkston said it is important for us to share at every stage of the process. This is a core reform effort, not a competition, but part of a national movement towards common assessment. It is an extension of the conversation of common core, and I believe it is important to remind the Metro Council that this is not just about rebooting computers; but something that is much bigger. Ms. Mayes asked if only 56% of students in MNPS have internet access? Ms. Hansen said yes. Mr. Carr said the Anytime Access for All initiative is focused on MNPS families and students, and that is why we have partnered with Connected Nations and Connected Tennessee to really turn this into a reality. Ms. Mayes said Anytime Access for All is fantastic, and the ownership of devices is even better. Last year during the TSBA Convention, the Greeneville High School principal presented on how students' devices are used in class as a learning tool, which engage students in learning without them even being aware. The presentation showed how students also used devices to have classroom interactions with students around the U.S. and in other countries. The information from the presentation is on the Greene County website. I believe the use of technology in the classroom will be a learning curve for some and an exciting time for others. There will be many things to consider, including policy, but we must begin the process. Dr. Gentry asked what part of the budget speaks to securing the devices? Mr. Carr said this software allows MNPS to track the device. Dr. Gentry asked if the software tracking device is included in the budget? Mr. Carr said yes. Ms. Kim asked if there is a project plan for this implementation? Mr. Carr said yes. Schools have been</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TLG Report: Technology/Data Management – continued 	<p>prioritized for implementation, but it is particularly funding-dependent. There are plans in place that will allow us to move quickly for installation of wireless devices. Ms. Kim asked where do we stand on progress? Mr. Carr said we have a plan and know how to get there. Ms. Frogge said I am surprised at how little we have for funding for technology over the last few years. Dr. Register said the economic crisis in our country has impacted the district. Mr. Henson said it was directly connected to the debt capacity of Metro Government, particularly as it relates to the economic downturn which led to the shortfall in sales tax collections. There were two years, 2008 and 2011, where there was no Capital Plan submitted by the Mayor or approved by the Council.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Reports – Budget and Finance, Director’s Evaluation, Youth Safety Summit, Naming of Schools 	<p>Mr. Pinkston stated that the Budget and Finance Committee met before the Board meeting in a public setting to discuss making mid-year adjustments. Two items I want to make note of: First, the Mayor announced a few weeks ago a retirement incentive for employees of Metro Government. MNPS has the option as part of Metro Government to participate in that program. The timing and deadline of February does not work well for MNPS, but the option will continue to be discussed and studied carefully. Secondly, the Budget Committee and process calendar is as follows: March 5th, Budget and Finance Committee meeting to consider First Draft of the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Operating Budget; Public Hearing on April 2nd; and a meeting and Board vote on the budget on April 9th.</p> <p>Ms. Kim stated that the Director’s Evaluation Committee met December 10th. Discussions were held around the short-term and long-term approach to the Director’s Evaluation. In the short-term, we will follow the existing handbook that outlines the expectations of both parties. We have launched that process, and the evaluation should be concluded by early February. Long-term, we will now revise the process. The 2009 process was reflective of the needs of the district at that time and has brought us to the present. The district has now evolved, and we are ready to take the next steps of revising the process which would be more focused on student outcomes.</p> <p>Ms. Shepherd stated that the Youth Safety Summit Committee met December 7th. The Youth Safety Summit will be April 6th, and the Keynote Speaker will be Craig Scott with Rachel’s Challenge. Rachel’s Challenge is an organization established by the family of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine shooting. The organization speaks around the country to discourage bullying and to inspire audiences with the life of Rachel Scott. Ms. Shepherd thanked Ms. Mayes for getting Nissan to sponsor the event. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 a.m. January 4th at the Martin Center.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Reports – Budget and Finance, Director’s Evaluation, Youth Safety Summit, Naming of Schools - continued 	Dr. Brannon stated the Naming of Schools Committee will meet December 20 th at 4:00 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Chairman’s Report – Committee Assignments 	Ms. Mayes announced that Ms. Frogge has been assigned to be the CLASS Representative for MNPS.	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School tour 	Ms. Speering announced that she attended the Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School tour. This is the only entertainment high school in the country. She congratulated Ms. Stewart and staff for preparing students for college and the entertainment industry.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maplewood High School Tour 	Ms. Speering announced that on December 12 th , there will be a Chamber of Commerce tour at Maplewood High School from 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communités in Schools 	Ms. Speering announced that she visited Communities in Schools, a program started by Bill Mulligan 30 years ago. He believed that every child had the right to be adored by some adult. Mr. Pinkston congratulated Francie Hunt, a long-time friend of public education, for her work with Communities in Schools.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose Park Math and Science Magnet Middle School 	Ms. Speering announced that Rose Park Math and Science Magnet Middle School received the SCORE Ambassador Award. She stated that it was very moving and empowering to see how thrilled the students were to receive that honor.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance Trust Meeting 	Ms. Speering announced the Insurance Trust meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on December 12 th .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Academy at Old Cockrill 	Ms. Speering congratulated the graduates of The Academy at Old Cockrill, Opry Mills, and Hickory Hollow. She also congratulated Dr. Register, Mr. Steele, and Dr. DePriest and staff for their hard work.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head Middle Magnet School 	Ms. Kim thanked Dr. Carr and Head Middle Magnet for the invitation to attend their Parents and Pastry Event. It was clear that parents were proud of the school.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Academy at Opry Mills Graduation 	Ms. Shepherd announced that she would be attending the Academy at OpryMills graduation on December 19 th at 9:00 a.m. She invited the community to attend the event.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAFSA Night at McGavock High School 	Ms. Shepherd announced that on January 11 th , FAFSA Night will be held at McGavock High School. Mr. Pinkston encouraged everyone to fill out the FAFSA application.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Casa Azafrán Community Center 	Mr. Pinkston announced that he joined many elected officials to help celebrate	

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	the opening of the Casa Azafrán Community Center, which is located on Nolensville Road. This center will serve as a hub for education, healthcare, and social services for our new Americans in the community.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Needs Work Session 	Mr. Hayes announced that on December 20 th at 5:00 p.m., a Capital Needs Work Session will be held in the Board Room.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Report Card 	Ms. Mayes announced that on December 17 th at 10:30 a.m., the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Report Card will be released at the Adventure Science Center.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Council Budget and Education Joint Committee Meeting 	Ms. Mayes announced that on December 17 th at 3:00 p.m. the Council's Budget and Education Joint Committee meeting will be held.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Academy at Old Cockrill, Opry Mills, and Hickory Hollow Graduations 	Ms. Mayes announced the Academy at Old Cockrill graduation will be held on December 18 th at 2:00 p.m., December 19 th at 9:00 a.m. is the Academy at Opry Mills graduation, and on December 19 th at noon is the Academy at Hickory Hollow graduation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Board Meeting and Board Retreat 	Ms. Mayes announced that the next Board meeting will be held January 8th, 2013. A Board retreat will be held January 25 th -26 th .	
WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Calendar Items 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales Tax Collections as of November 20, 2012 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget Financial Report 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjournment 	Ms. Frogge adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatures 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <hr style="width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>Chris M. Henson Board Secretary</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr style="width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>Cheryl D. Mayes Board Chair</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Date</p> </div> </div>	