

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING –

April 27, 2021

Members Present: Christiane Buggs, chair, Freda Player-Peters, Fran Bush, Gini Pupo-Walker, Emily Masters, Abigail Tylor, John Little, Sharon Gentry, Rachael Anne Elrod vice-chair

Meeting called to order: 5:00 p.m.

CONVENE AND ACTION

- A. Call to Order
Christiane Buggs called the meeting to order.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chris Henson, Chief of Finance
- C. Central Office Support Hub Reveal – Dr. Battle and Dr. Barnes
- D. Overton High School Staff – Dr. Battle recognized Dr. Pittman and Staff for their support of students during an emergency situation at Overton High School.

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- A. 1. Consent
 - a. Approval of Minutes – 03/23/21 - Meeting
 - b. Awarding of Purchases and Contracts
 - 1. Alan Jay Automotive Management, Inc.
 - 2. Eads Cx
 - 3. Facility Diagnostics, LLC
 - 4. FTW Robotics
 - 5. Lakeshore Equipment Company dba Lakeshore Learning
 - 6. Nashville Roof Consultants
 - 7. Office Depot (2 Contracts)
 - ~~8. Orion Building Corporation~~
 - 9. Riverside Assessments, LLC dba Riverside Insights
 - 10. TT of Columbia, Inc.

c. Policies 1.700 - School District Goals, 5.100 – Personal Goals, 1.900 - Charter School Applications, Policy 4.400 -Textbooks and Instructional Materials, Policy 4.700 – Testing Programs, Policy 6.405 - Administration of Medication in a School Setting

Fran Bush pulled Item A-1-b-(8) Orion Building Corporation

**Motion to approve consent agenda
By Sharon Gentry, seconded Freda Player-Peters
Motion Passes
Vote: 9-0**

**Motion to approve Item A-1-b-(8) Orion Building Corporation
By Sharon Gentry, seconded Gini Pupo-Walker
Motion Passes
Vote: 6-3 (Fran Bush, Emily Masters, Abigail Tylor abstained)**

2. A Resolution, Regarding The Addition Of 5th Grade To Purpose Preparatory Academy

**WHEREAS, beginning in 2020 the Director of Schools presented the MNPS Reimagined framework to the Board of Education for consideration; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education has endorsed the MNPS Reimagined initiative; and
WHEREAS, that framework included the realignment of grade level in particular school clusters to K-5 for elementary schools and 6-8 for middle schools; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education approved the grade realignment in the Pearl-Cohn, Maplewood, and Whites Creek clusters beginning with the 2021 – 2022 school year; and
WHEREAS, Purpose Preparatory Academy is a charter school approved by the MNPS Board of Education; and**

WHEREAS, Purpose Preparatory Academy primarily draws their enrollment from students in the Maplewood and Pearl-Cohn clusters; and
WHEREAS, Purpose Preparatory Academy currently enrolls students in grade K-4;
WHEREAS, Purpose Preparatory Academy leadership and families have appeared before the Board of Education to request that Purpose Preparatory Academy's enrollment be expanded for the 2021-2022 school year to include 5th grade so that it aligns with neighboring district-run schools; and
WHEREAS, there is no prohibition on a public charter school authorizer entering into a voluntary amendment of the chartering agreement; and
WHEREAS, MNPS resolves to enter into chartering agreement negotiations for the sole purpose of adding 5th grade to Purpose Preparatory Academy; and
WHEREAS, both MNPS and Purpose Preparatory Academy would look favorably upon an agreement that included the addition of 5th grade but did not raise the total enrollment capacity of 380 students; and
WHEREAS, Purpose Preparatory Academy would, consistent with their current chartering agreement, be required to offer its newly included 5th grade to all currently enrolled Purpose Preparatory Academy 4th grade students and could not counsel students away from this option; and
WHEREAS, both MNPS and Purpose Preparatory Academy agree that this amendment does not extend the duration of the current agreement in any way.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MNPS administration is directed to begin contract negotiations with Purpose Preparatory Academy consistent with the language herein.

**Motion to approve A Resolution, Regarding The Addition of 5th Grade to Purpose Preparatory Academy.
By John Little, seconded Christiane Buggs
Motion Fails
Vote: 2-7 (Abstain Fran Bush and John Little)**

3. A Resolution, Regarding Physical, Mental And Emotional Support For All Metropolitan Nashville Public School Students, Staff, Parents, And Other Stakeholders Regardless Of Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Or Sexual Orientation

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, to access a free public K-12 education, and the District welcomes and supports all students; and

WHEREAS, the District has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, can safely access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that there are employees and educators who are gay, lesbian, and transgender, and that all employees are valued members of the school community, regardless of their gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that there are families in our community of diverse background, and the District values all our families, regardless of the family members' gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Title VI prohibits discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education has upheld the interpretation of Title IX to protect students from discrimination on the basis of their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the United States Supreme Court ruled, in the case of Bostock v. Clayton County, that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is necessarily also discrimination "because of sex" as prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, we recognize creating LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in Metro Nashville Public Schools is not about any single action, and it will not happen with just the passage of a resolution or the change of a policy, but it is about effectuating a paradigm shift through facilitating deeper understanding of sexual and gender diversity, and this requires appropriate communication, professional development, and a commitment from the Board, the District, and all schools - of all

grade levels - to support this shift and commit to moving forward with the resolve to learn and further best practices into the future; and

WHEREAS, systemic transphobia, biphobia, and homophobia push LGBTQIA+ youth out of school and those same systems of oppression may cause long-lasting negative mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning ("LGBTQ") students experience high rates of bullying, victimization, and harassment at school on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, this bullying, victimization, and harassment has led to negative educational outcomes for LGBTQ students, including higher rates of dropping out, higher absence rates, and lower postsecondary school aspirations; and

WHEREAS, affirming gender identity and gender expression for youth of all ages is proven to be one of the most effective mental health interventions for

supporting transgender youth, gender-expansive youth, and gender-nonconforming youth; and WHEREAS, MNPS Board policy 5.500 prohibits employee harassment based upon sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or appearance, or sex, including sexual harassment; and WHEREAS, MNPS Board Policy 6.304 qualifies sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity/expression among protected classes in the prohibition of bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and victimization of students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION resolves to provide access to resources that are specifically responsive to gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

FURTHERMORE, the District shall allow students and staff to use requested names and pronouns without requiring a legal name change or medical diagnosis. FURTHERMORE, the District shall provide equal access to all resources and programs and advocate for access to District facilities that align with the students' and staff members' gender expression.

FURTHERMORE, the District shall ensure that all administrators – at all grade levels – are aware of and capable of implementing all existing policies and tools, such as the MNPS Gender Support Plan process, in support of staff and students.

FURTHERMORE, the District shall continue to advocate for LGBTQ people and issues in school curricula and instructional materials, including in health and sex education, inclusive of materials that portray LGBTQ figures in a positive light; the District shall ensure that the curricula include diverse perspectives, especially LGBTQ people of color and issues specific to communities of color.

FURTHERMORE, the District shall distribute this Resolution to District staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication, and the Resolution will be translated into multiple languages spoken by students at home.

FURTHERMORE, District-affiliated contractors having contact with MNPS students shall be notified of this Resolution.

Motion to approve A Resolution, Regarding Physical, Mental And Emotional Support For All Metropolitan Nashville Public School Students, Staff, Parents, And Other Stakeholders Regardless Of Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Or Sexual Orientation

**By Emily Masters, seconded Rachael Anne Elrod
Motion Passes**

Vote: 9-0

4. Aventura Community Schools

Motion to deny the approval of Aventura Community Schools Charter application based upon the school not meeting the academic or operational plans. Based upon a lack of evidence and current research to support their curriculum about translating Spanish for all students. Additionally, including all items listed in the charter review committee reports and the discussion on the Board floor.

**By Rachael Anne Elrod, seconded Abigail Tylor
Motion Passes**

Vote: 8-1 (John Little)

Nashville Classical School II

Motion to deny based upon the Charter review Committee findings, concerns about location and ability to finance and complete any necessary renovations of the old Brookmeade School prior to the proposed school opening.

**By Abigail Tylor, seconded Emily Masters
Motion Passes**

Vote: 7-2 (John Little and Gini Pupo-Walker)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Gini Pupo-Walker congratulated the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from Hillsboro High School. She also encouraged students to apply for the Student Board Member position.
- B. Fran Bush – Congratulated retiring teachers and thanked them for their service to MNPS.
- C. John Little announced he would be helping out at Two Rivers Elementary for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- D. Rachael Anne Elrod – Thanked the staff at Overton High School for their quick response to an emergency situation.
- E. Freda Player-Peters congratulated the teachers in District 7 on their retirement.
- F. Emily Masters congratulated thanked the JR Air Force ROTC at Maplewood High School for winning the Air Force Distinguished Unit Award.
- G. Abigail Tylor offered condolences to the family Denise Holland a former MNPS bus driver.
- H. Christiane Buggs offered condolences to the family of Senator Thelma Harper. She also announced that Warner Elementary made the Blue Ribbon school list.

Ms. Elrod adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

