

Board of Education Regular Meeting

July 28, 2026 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER Procedural Item Present: Mr. Butch Campbell, Ms. Karen Dodd, Ms. Barbara Long, Ms. Amanda Moore, Mrs. Jeanette Price, Absent: Mr. Jimmy Richardson III, Mr. David Settles. Present: Dr. Trey Duke, Ken Rocha, April Zavisa, Sheri Arnette, Cherie Richardson, Jaclyn Saunders, Angela Fairchild, Sia Phillips, Cathy Pressnell, Maria Johnson, Daniel Owens, Kimberly Hix, Enuel Carraballo, Crystal Landis, Carissa Crismon, Melissa Miffleton, Don Bartch, Jeremy Lewis, Lisa Trail, Caitin Bullard, Jessica Snell, Beth Warren, Jen Hickson, Shea Payne, Niki Stely, Rebecca Haigh, Kim Fischer Assistant City Attorney Lauren Bush, and City Liaison Bill Shacklett	Chair Amanda Moore
A. Public Comment Procedural Item No Public Comment.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance Procedural Item	
C. Moment of Silence Procedural Item	
II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Action Item Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Ms. Barbara Long and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Chair Amanda Moore
III. COMMUNICATIONS Information Item	Mrs. Lisa Trail
A. The Best of MCS-Chef Jack Sawyers Procedural Item	Dr. Trey Duke
B. Recognition of Discovery School Students-National Winners at Beta Convention- 1st Place Drawing-Tala Khanfar 6th Place-5th Grade Language Arts-Alaina Schrader 10th Place-4th Grade Language Arts-Tosin Adeyemo Action Item Dr. Duke recognized Discovery School as a National BETA School of Distinction and National BETA School of Merit. Discovery School Principal, Dr. Caitlin Bullard, introduced her school's national winners at the BETA National Convention and recognized BETA Club sponsors Beth Warren, Jennifer Hickson, Shea Payne, Kelsey McKnight, Jason Page, Kelley Kleppinger and Tiara Vance, as well as all the other staff members who pour into this project. Board Member Amanda Moore commented that this is just outstanding and thanked Dr. Bullard for representing MCS so well. Butch Campbell asked how many children our students competed against. BETA Club sponsor Beth Warren replied that our students compete in several rounds of competition throughout the year before even moving forward to the finals and placing in the nation.	
C. Presentation of Board of Distinction Plaque 2026-2029 by Mr. Steve Haley, Dickson County Board Member and TSBA Mid Cumberland District Director Procedural Item Mr. Steve Haley, TSBA Mid-Cumberland District Director, awarded the Murfreesboro City	Chair Amanda Moore

School Board with TSBA's Board of Distinction Award, which is one of TSBA's most prestigious awards. Mr. Haley commended the Board for meeting the requirements in the four key areas focusing on planning, policy, promotion and board development. Board Chair, Amanda Moore thanked Mr. Haley and all the board members. She continued by thanking the MCS administrative staff for helping put together the application.	
D. Recognition of New Administrative Staff for 2026-2027 Kimberly Hix-Principal at Cason Lane Academy Enuel Caraballo-Assistant Principal at Cason Lane Academy Crystal Landis-Assistant Principal at Erma Siegel Elementary Carissa Crismon-Assistant Principal at Bradley Academy Cherie Richardson-Coordinator of Science/Social Studies Procedural Item	Dr. Trey Duke
E. Spotlight on Education-Highlights of Summer Professional Development Sessions Procedural Item Dr. Cathy Pressnell and Sheri Arnette presented the board with a brief overview of the various professional development sessions offered to our teachers this summer. Dr. Pressnell reported that this year MCS hosted two versions of the Summer Literacy Institute. The original version is centered around the knowledge-building modules in our curriculum. We hosted 23 K-5 teachers and 3 ESL teachers. Our new version is over 8 hours of pre-work and almost 40 hours of in-person work that is focused on the curriculum's skills blocks, which is the foundational skills part of literacy. This cohort had 33 teachers in grades K-2, with 14 being kindergarten teachers. Dr. Pressnell is proud to report that teacher feedback continues to be strong from the program, and reports that MCS has had 210 teachers, coaches and leaders have been trained in ELA, with 11 of these teachers having attended both versions of the institutes. Assistant Superintendent, Sheri Arnette reported that MCS' New Teacher Orientation was held last week at MTSU in the College of Education building. We had 62 teachers attending each day with an emphasis on literacy, math and science curriculum, along with classroom management and instructional technology sessions. Ms. Arnette has received positive comments from many teachers which she shared with the Board. Ms. Arnette also reported that today, 65 professional development sessions were held at Erma Siegel Elementary, with various district presenters covering many different topics. MCS had over 200 of our teachers attend, and so far, feedback for all the professional development offered has been overwhelmingly positive.	Sheri Arnette
IV. CONSENT ITEMS Consent Agenda Motion to approve consent agenda.. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Chair Amanda Moore
A. Approval of 6-23-26 Board Minutes Consent Item	
B. Approval of Agreement-LanLink Consent Item	
C. Second Reading of Board Policies Consent Item	
i. Approval of Board Policy 4.204, <i>Instructional Use of Digital Devices</i> , on Second Reading Consent Item	
D. Approval of Surplus Property Disposal Consent Item	
V. ACTION ITEMS Action Item	Chair Amanda Moore
A. Approval of Black Fox Elementary Eagle Scout Project	Dr. Trey Duke

Action Item Motion to approve Black Fox Elementary Eagle Scout Project. This motion, made by Mrs. Jeanette Price and seconded by Ms. Karen Dodd, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Dr. Trey Duke introduced Jackson Baker, who is seeking approval for his Eagle Scout Project at Black Fox Elementary. He will be building two buddy benches, which will be decorated colorfully and secured into the ground on the Black Fox campus. The purpose of these benches is that if a student doesn't have someone to play with, they sit on the bench and other students will notice and invite them to play. The purpose of this project is to prevent children from being left out and alerting other children of someone needing a playing companion. As part of his project, Jackson will also be providing Black Fox's 1st through 4th grade classrooms with a book about buddy benches and will be cleaning up trash around the Black Fox campus. Board member Karen Dodd asked if Jackson went to Black Fox as a student. Jackson stated that, yes, he was a Black Fox student. Ms. Dodd continued by asking Jackson what grade he's in this year. Jackson replied that he will be a senior in high school this year. Board member Jeanette Price thanked Jackson for his effort and hard work. She also commented that we appreciate him thinking about MCS as he celebrates his tenure with the Boy Scouts in completing his Eagle Scout project. Board Member Amanda Moore asked if Jackson would be building the benches himself. Jackson stated yes, he would build the benches and his friends, family members and troop members would help secure them in the ground.	
B. Approval of Board Policy 2.100, <i>Fiscal Management Goals</i>, on First Reading Action Item Motion to approve Board Policy 2.100, Fiscal Management Goals, on First Reading. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Ms. Barbara Long, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Ms. Lauren Bush
C. Approval of Board Policy 4.6031, <i>Promotion and Retention Based on TCAP Results</i>, on First Reading Action Item Motion to approve Board Policy 4.6031, Promotion and Retention Based on TCAP Results, on First Reading. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Ms. Barbara Long, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Ms. Lauren Bush
D. Approval of Board Policy 5.200, <i>Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers</i>, and Board Policy 5.201, <i>Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers</i>, on First Reading Action Item Motion to approve Board Policy 5.200, Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers, and Board Policy 5.201, Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers, on First Reading. This motion, made by Ms. Karen Dodd and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Ms. Lauren Bush
E. Approval of Board Policy 5.310, <i>Vacations and Holidays</i>, on First Reading Action Item Motion to approve Board Policy 5.310, Vacations and Holidays, as amended, on First Reading. This motion, made by Ms. Barbara Long and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Motion to approve Board Policy 5.310, Vacations and Holidays, on First Reading. This motion, made by Mrs. Jeanette Price and seconded by Mr. Butch Campbell, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Jeanette Price commented that she noticed Juneteenth wasn't one of MCS' holidays and asked how we could add that day to the list of holidays.	Ms. Lauren Bush

Dr. Trey Duke stated that days off are at the discretion of the Board, and if they want to add this day to the holiday list, the Board could vote to add it. Ms. Price stated that she would like to see this holiday added and proceeded to make a Motion to Amend Policy 5.310 to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday for 12-month employees.	
F. Approval of Board Policy 6.202, <i>Home Schools</i>, on First Reading Action Item Motion to approve Policy 6.202. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Jeanette Price asked whether homeschool students would be able to participate in MCS' extracurricular activities along with courses at the elementary level. Assistant City Attorney Lauren Bush replied that they could not enroll in our courses based on our Board Policy and State statute. She further explained that an extracurricular activity request depends on and begins with the school principal. The school principal would work with Assistant Superintendent Ken Rocha. The decision would be based on the activity and the time of day they would need to use the facilities, etc. Board Member Karen Dodd asked if this was just our policy. Lauren Bush responded that it's state law now as part of Public Chapter 912. Ms. Dodd followed up by asking if this test is the same as the test our students take. Dr. Trey Duke responded that this is another pathway for homeschool students, and they have to take a nationally-norm test that doesn't have to necessarily be in our school. Ms. Dodd confirmed with Dr. Duke that these students get to pick what test they take. Dr. Duke confirmed this. Board Member Amanda Moore asked if the test had to be monitored. Dr. Duke answered that the assessment has to be proctored by someone who is not a family member, but it does not specify where the assessment has to be taken. Board Member Barbara Long asked what MCS' responsibility was if a homeschool student was falling behind. Lauren Bush responded that we no longer have a responsibility, and she reported that this used to be monitored by Mr. Rocha's department. Ms. Bush reiterated that there is now no recourse for a school district to follow if we have concerns about a homeschool student. Mrs. Long confirmed that MCS is not accountable for their performance. Board Member Jeanette Price verified that homeschool students would still have to register under us as a homeschool student. Dr. Duke confirmed this as either an independent homeschool student or under an umbrella school. Assistant Superintendent Ken Rocha confirmed this. Ms. Price confirmed that now MCS is only accountable for registration. Mr. Rocha stated that if the student is in 3rd or 5th grade, we're looking at their assessment, but the difference now is that we're not having a follow-up conversation with the parents. Board Member Barbara Long confirmed that the parents are responsible for turning in their scores. Dr. Duke confirmed that we are not responsible and can't take action if they're falling behind. Board Member Amanda Moore verified that if a homeschool child isn't doing well, the child has no support from anyone outside the home. Ms. Bush confirmed that there is now less oversight if a child is falling behind. She followed up by stating they could still come and test with us, and we would report back on their progress.	Ms. Lauren Bush
G. Approval of Board Policy 6.306, <i>Interference/Disruption of School Activities</i>, on First Reading Action Item Motion to approve Board Policy 6.306, Interference/Disruption of School Activities, on First	Ms. Lauren Bush

Reading. This motion, made by Ms. Barbara Long and seconded by Ms. Karen Dodd, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Barbara Long asked what this looks like during the school day with respect to the communication to parents. Dr. Trey Duke informed the Board that MCS has always been proactive in alerting families, so this is nothing new; it just formalizes the process. He further stated that Communications Director, Lisa Trail, has been proactive in reviewing the law and is drafting language that the principals can adapt. Assistant Superintendent Ken Rocha is creating a flow chart so that we follow the law in the event a situation arises that will require us to evacuate a classroom. The school staff are aware of how to alert parents which most likely will be delivered to parents the same day. Board Member Barbara Long commented that this is just another layer of a laundry list of things our principals have to do. Dr. Trey Duke followed up by stating that we want to make sure the communication is coming from the principal or assistant principal, and we are doing what we can do to help with these communications.	
H. Approval of Board Policy 6.4053, <i>Private Pay Applied Behavior Analysis Services</i>, on first reading Action Item Motion to approve Board Policy 6.4053, Private Pay Applied Behavior Analysis Services, on first reading. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Barbara Long questioned if this directive was coming from the State. Assistant City Attorney Lauren Bush confirmed that it is a statutory requirement. Ms. Long continued by commenting that she can see a lot of issues with this. Board Member Jeanette Price asked if providers would go through our background and security checks before entering schools. Ms. Bush stated that we are being very intentional with onboarding from specific providers that will include training, safety, security, and background checks. Ms. Bush further stated that we have procedures set up, and the Director of Special Education, Angela Fairchild, will be working closely with the schools. Ms. Bush also stated that we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that we require each provider who will be coming into our schools to sign. Ms. Bush further stated that we are proceeding slowly so we can head off any problems before we start. She also informed the Board that we have had some requests already. Ms. Bush noted that the request for these services has to come from the parents, not the provider. Board Member Barbara Long asked if the academic block would be protected. Dr. Trey Duke confirmed that it would be and that we will work it out with the provider to be sure it doesn't interfere with any IEP services we are required to provide. Board Member Jeanette Price verified that this cannot replace a student's IEP. Dr. Duke confirmed that it could not replace a student's IEP and that this is in addition to any IEP services we provide as a district. Dr. Duke also emphasized that the process starts with the parent, not the provider. Board Member Amanda Moore stated that she had a lot of worries reading this law but felt better after reading our policy. Ms. Bush stated that she has drafted this policy from scratch to make it individualized to MCS and the challenges that we anticipate.	Ms. Lauren Bush
I. Approval of Instruction on Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Action Item Motion to approve Instruction on Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention. This motion,	Dr. Trey Duke

made by Ms. Barbara Long and seconded by Ms. Karen Dodd, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Karen Dodd asked if we are already doing this. Dr. Trey Duke confirmed that our school counselors complete a child safety unit every spring with every student. Board Member Amanda Moore questioned whether this will eliminate anything we normally do. Dr. Duke stated no, everything we do will stay the same. Board Member Barbara Long asked Communications Director Lisa Trail if we plan to offer any child trafficking courses at our Parent University this year. Dr. Duke responded that we will meet with our Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Jennifer Lowe, in order to get this added to our Parent University and get the date of this session to the Board.	
J. Approval of Student Fees for 2026-2027 Action Item Motion to approve Student Fees for 2026-2027. This motion, made by Ms. Barbara Long and seconded by Ms. Karen Dodd, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Butch Campbell asked if there was any increase to student fees this year. Dr. Trey Duke responded that these amounts are the same as last school year. Board Member Amanda Moore stated that she likes the way we approve these fees up front now versus how they were approved individually in the past. Mr. Campbell followed up by asking if every T-shirt for a student would be \$15. Dr. Duke responded that any time we charge a student a fee, the Board has to approve; however, this doesn't mean all students will be charged \$15. It states that they can be charged up to the amounts mentioned. Anything over these capped amounts would still come to the Board for review.	Dr. Trey Duke
K. Approval of Participation in Purchasing Cooperatives for New Fiscal Year Action Item Motion to approve Participation in Purchasing Cooperatives for New Fiscal Year. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Dr. Trey Duke
L. Approval of Contract-Scales Roof Action Item Motion to approve Contract-Scales Roof. This motion, made by Ms. Karen Dodd and seconded by Ms. Barbara Long, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Dr. Trey Duke
M. Approval of Middle TN Extermination Contract Action Item Motion to approve Middle TN Extermination Contract. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Board Member Amanda Moore asked if we had bid out this project. Assistant City Attorney Lauren Bush stated that we are part of the State's Central Procurement Office (CPO), and they require bids for projects like this. By being a part of the State's CPO, it allows individual governmental agencies to operate off of it.	Dr. Trey Duke
N. Approval of Johnson Controls Agreement for FY27 Fire Protection Services Action Item Motion to approve Johnson Controls Agreement for FY27 Fire Protection Services. This motion, made by Ms. Barbara Long and seconded by Mrs. Jeanette Price, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	Dr. Trey Duke
VI. REPORTS AND INFORMATION	Chair Amanda Moore

Information Item	
A. Personnel Report Information Item Dr. Trey Duke informed the Board that this personnel report includes all the new teachers who start work on Friday.	Dr. Trey Duke
B. Director's Update Information Item Dr. Trey Duke informed the Board that on Friday we officially welcome back all of our teachers and 10-month classified employees for the 26-27 school year. He continued by saying that over the course of the next week, they will be participating in professional development sessions both at the school and district levels and will also have time in their classrooms. School open houses occur on August 5th, students return on August 7th, and then we begin our kindergarten phase-in the following week. Dr. Duke also relayed that we are looking forward to everyone being back, and reminded families to be sure to check the website for school-specific information and to get their students registered in Skyward. Dr. Duke further added that he is so very proud of Amy Jackson for being one of nine top teachers in the State. He further stated that over the past several years, we've had a lot of our excellent employees recognized at the State level. Board Member Amanda Moore stated that she and fellow Board Member Jeannette Price visited the New Teacher Luncheon where Amy Jackson spoke, and they were very impressed with her by getting them motivated! Board Member Barbara Long asked how many positions we still had open. Dr. Duke informed the Board that all classroom positions are filled. Director of Human Resources Maria Johnson reported that we still have openings for four CDC teachers, a BEST teacher and a vision teacher. Board Member Amanda Moore followed up confirming that we have financial incentives available for some of these positions. Ms. Johnson confirmed that a \$10,000 stipend is available for the BEST position and a \$2,000 stipend for the CDC teaching positions. Board Member Barbara Long asked whether we were through with construction everywhere. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Don Bartch updated the Board, noting that the Bradley ceiling project wrapped up last night, and the Mitchell-Neilson new doors project should be finalized next week. Mr. Bartch further commented that the ceiling project was a massive project on a very strict timeline. Ms. Long further asked if we would be able to get the building cleaned before the teachers return. Mr. Bartch replied that we are doing that right now, and ABM is there to make sure everything is cleaned. Finally, Board Member Butch Campbell commented that there were a massive number of people at Mitchell-Neilson on Saturday. Communications Director Lisa Trail replied that we had over 1,000 people in attendance at the event put on by our Family Resource Center and our community partners.	Dr. Trey Duke
VII. OTHER BUSINESS Information Item	Chair Amanda Moore
VIII. ADJOURNMENT Action Item Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Mr. Butch Campbell and seconded by Ms. Karen Dodd, passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm	Chair Amanda Moore