

REGULAR MEETING

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE

MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Ms. Tomeka Hart, President
Mr. Martavius D. Jones, Vice President
Ms. Stephanie Gatewood
Dr. Jeff Warren
Dr. Sharon A. Webb
Dr. Freda Williams
Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.

ABSENT: Ms. Patrice J. Robinson
Ms. Betty Mallott

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Gatewood moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Dr. Warren. President Hart noted that an additional name has been added to Citizens Speaking on Non-Agenda Items. Dr. Webb and Dr. Whalum asked to be recognized under Items of Information and Announcements.

The Board Secretary called the roll on the Revised Agenda with the voting as follows:

Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.	Aye
Commissioner Stephanie Gatewood	Aye
Commissioner Betty J. Mallott	Absent
Commissioner Martavius D. Jones	Aye
Commissioner Patrice J. Robinson	Absent
Dr. Jeff Warren	Aye
Dr. Sharon A. Webb	Aye
Dr. Freda G. Williams	Aye
President Tomeka R. Hart	Aye

With 7 Ayes and 2 Absent, the Revised Agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2008 AND THE SPECIAL CALLED MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2008

Dr. Warren moved to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2008, and the Special Called Minutes of August 25, 2008, and was seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. President Hart noted a few minor corrections to the August 18, 2008 Minutes.

The Board Secretary called the roll on the Minutes of August 18, 2008, and the Special Called Minutes of August 25, 2008 with the voting as follows:

Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.	Aye
Commissioner Stephanie Gatewood	Aye
Commissioner Betty J. Mallott	Absent
Commissioner Martavius D. Jones	Aye
Commissioner Patrice J. Robinson	Absent
Dr. Jeff Warren	Aye
Dr. Sharon A. Webb	Aye
Dr. Freda G. Williams	Aye
President Tomeka R. Hart	Aye

With 7 Ayes and 2 Absent, the Minutes of August 18, 2008, and the Special Called Minutes of August 25, 2008 were approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS / PRESENTATIONS

The Bobcat Players – Bellevue Middle School

President Hart introduced The Bobcat Players, a talented group of drama students from Bellevue Middle School, led by theater teacher Nona Allen.

Since the inception of The Bobcat Players in 2007, the group has aspired to instill a love of the performing arts in the students of Bellevue Middle School and in the audiences they serve. The Players strive to expose students and audiences to all genres of theatre in unique and innovative ways. After producing one theatrical production last school year, the players plan to produce two full productions this year: one in the fall and one next spring. The group also plans to produce two dinner theater performances, the first of which will be performed on Thursday, October 9 at Bellevue Middle School.

Blue Ribbon School of the Year Award

President Hart introduced Ms. Charlotte Baucom, who made a special presentation for the Blue Ribbon /PBIS Schools of the Year. The schools named were Vance Middle School and Coleman Elementary School. Each school will receive \$2,500.

Sara L. Lewis Principal of the Year Award

The Board honored Dr. Oscar Love, the Principal of Raleigh-Egypt High School, for being named the 2008 recipient of the Sara L. Lewis Principal of the Year Award. Dr. Love is a model of hard work, integrity, and commitment to the betterment of our community and to the service of our children. As further evidence of Dr. Love's reputation for excellence in leadership in education, the Tennessee Department of Education recently announced that he is one of eight finalists for the title of Principal of the Year for the State of Tennessee.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Hart reported the following:

The Human Resources Department will be hosting a Teacher Certification and Graduate School Fair on tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, from 3 p.m - 6 p.m. in the Board of Education Auditorium. Local colleges and universities have been invited to share information with teachers about enrolling in certification and graduate school programs. The fair will also include health vendors and free educational supplies. In addition, the first 100 teachers in attendance will receive special prizes.

The Board will attend the TSBA Fall District Meeting on Monday, September 22 at Arlington High School.

The Board extended thanks to a group of devoted employees from the Central Nutrition Center who pitched in to help feed evacuees from Hurricane Gustav. These CNC employees worked tirelessly to feed approximately 3,000 evacuees who had come to Memphis seeking shelter from the hurricane. The President expressed pride in the CNC employees' dedicated efforts to help our neighbors in their time of need. These devoted CNC employees are the embodiment of Memphis City Schools' commitment to serving the community, and The Board commended each and every one of them for their heroic efforts to help our neighbors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Work Session Committee

Commissioner Jones asked that the Minutes of the August 25, 2008 Board Work Session be adopted. After voice vote of all ayes, the Minutes were adopted.

Mental Health Committee

No Report

Personnel Committee

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS REPORT

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Warren moved to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Gatewood.

Dr. Hall called the roll on the Consent Agenda with the voting as follows:

Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.	Aye
Commissioner Stephanie Gatewood	Aye
Commissioner Betty J. Mallott	Absent
Commissioner Martavius D. Jones	Aye
Commissioner Patrice J. Robinson	Absent
Dr. Jeff Warren	Aye
Dr. Sharon A. Webb	Aye
Dr. Freda G. Williams	Aye
President Tomeka R. Hart	Aye

With 7 Ayes and 2 Absent, the Consent Agenda was approved.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

President Hart acknowledged a \$26,000 donation from Partners In Public Education (PIPE) to Academic Operations, Technology & Innovation for two research assistants, who will work closely with the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent with various components of the District's initiatives for the 2008-2009 academic school year.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Budget Transfer Project 255 Inventory Bar-coding System

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED THAT the Memphis City Schools Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the transfer of \$359,580.75 from Project 333 Capital Maintenance Unallocated to Project 255 Inventory Bar-coding System.

Commissioner Gatewood moved to approve the budget transfer to Project 255 Inventory Bar-coding System and was seconded by Dr. Webb.

The Board Secretary called the roll on the budget transfer to Project 255 Inventory Bar-coding System with the voting as follows:

Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.	Aye
Commissioner Stephanie Gatewood	Aye
Commissioner Betty J. Mallott	Absent
Commissioner Martavius D. Jones	Aye
Commissioner Patrice J. Robinson	Absent
Dr. Jeff Warren	Aye
Dr. Sharon A. Webb	Aye
Dr. Freda G. Williams	Aye
President Tomeka R. Hart	Aye

With 7 Ayes and 2 Absent, the budget transfer to Project 255 Inventory Bar-coding System was approved.

Budget Transfer Project 259 Portables Relocation

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED THAT the Memphis City Schools Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the transfer of \$800,000 from Project 333 Capital Maintenance Unallocated to Project 259 Portables Relocation.

Commissioner Gatewood moved to approve the budget transfer to Project 259 Portables Relocation and was seconded by Dr. Webb.

The Board Secretary called the roll on the budget transfer to Project 259 Portables Relocation with the voting as follows:

Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.	Aye
Commissioner Stephanie Gatewood	Aye
Commissioner Betty J. Mallott	Absent
Commissioner Martavius D. Jones	Aye
Commissioner Patrice J. Robinson	Absent
Dr. Jeff Warren	Aye
Dr. Sharon A. Webb	Aye
Dr. Freda G. Williams	Aye
President Tomeka R. Hart	Aye

With 7 Ayes and 2 Absent, the budget transfer to Project 259 Portables Relocation was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- 1 Latricia Wilson, 2569 Union Ave, 38112
Re: Gateway Exams
- 2 Margaret Williams, 1212 Vollentine, 38107
Re: School Funding & School Calendar
- 3 Minister Yahweh, 775 Porter, 38126
Re: Saving Our Youth
- 4 Mr. Chet Kibbler, 775 Porter, 38126
Re: Saving Our Youth
- 5 Robert Padgett, 1772 Genesis St, 38111
Re: Memphis Health Science Academy

SUPERINTENDENT'S WORK SESSION AGENDA

The Superintendent acknowledged Mr. William White, Executive Director of School Choice and Student Accounting, who reported on our 20-day enrollment.

Mr. White noted that the enrollment numbers he was giving are for staffing purposes, and that they do not include Pre-K, Special Education CDC Students, or Charter Schools. He also noted that the enrollment numbers he would be giving are for 19 days of school (as today is the 20th day).

Enrollment as of September 5, 2008 is 102,993. The projected number was 104,524, and the difference is 1,531. He noted that the numbers for the same time last year were 106,989 and the difference is 3,996 from last year.

Mr. White stated that total enrollment (all children in the District, including Pre-K, Special Education CDC Students, and Charter Schools) is 110,212, and that 112,699 was projected. The difference between the two is 2,487. Compared to last year's total enrollment of 113,542, the difference is 3,330 less students.

Mr. White noted that our numbers are preliminary.

The Superintendent noted that based on that report, about seventy teachers would be surplusd this year but that no names have been identified.

Some questions asked were: what does surplus mean; when will those being surplusd know, and how will they be notified; what is the method used to determine who would be surplusd; will class size be affected.

Mr. Von Goodloe, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, answered that surplus is a reduction in force based on student enrollment. He further stated that those affected would be notified this week and that surplusd will be based on seniority, coaching assignments and the MEA contract, and that class size will not be affected.

September 8, 2008

Dr. Whalum asked if we could somehow work with the Memphis Education Association (MEA) to identify teachers who are eligible to retire, and ask them if they would do it, giving newer teachers the opportunity to pursue their careers.

Mr. Jones commended Dr. Whalum on his idea, and noted that companies lose many experienced people in a buy-out.

Dr. Whalum noted that he is not asking us to offer a buy-out, just to identify those eligible for retirement, and ask if they would retire.

Dr. Cash noted that he would investigate asking those who are eligible to retire, however, he has never asked a teacher to retire.

President Hart noted that it would be the same as a buy-out.

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

Mr. Hopson reported that a letter has been sent to the City Council requesting approval of our budget.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Webb reported that she attended a wonderful Open House at the Driver Education Center today.

Dr. Whalum invited the Board and audience to attend a free gospel concert in honor of the first ever Gospel Music Heritage Month, on Sunday September 14, 6:00 pm at New Olivet Baptist Church, 3084 Southern Ave.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gatewood moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Kriner Cash, Secretary

Tomeka R. Hart, President