

December 14, 2017

**McMinn County Board of Education  
Regular Session Meeting  
Thursday, December 14, 2017**

The McMinn County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order and asked for the roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Denise Cunningham	Joe Coleman
Mike Cochran	
Tony Allman	
Rob Shamblin	
Melinda King	
Donna Cagle	
Mike Lowry	
Quinten Howard	
Chairman Sharon Brown	

**WELCOME**

Chairman Brown welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Matthew Howard, a student at Rogers Creek Elementary School and son of Amanda and Jamey Howard, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mike Lowry, seconded by Quinten Howard. Chairman Brown asked for any discussion. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Chairman Brown stated this sets the order for tonight's meeting.

**1. GUESTS**

a. Volunteer of the Month-Rogers Creek Elementary School

Principal Glen Puryear recognized Jamey and Amanda Howard as this month's Volunteers of the Month. Mr. Puryear thanked Mr. and Mrs. Howard for their efforts in updating the school's playground and said Mr. Howard brought in some of his heavy equipment to do a large part of the work. Mr. Puryear also thanked Ms. Howard for the great job she is doing as the school's PTO president and stated they recently raised over \$5000 at their Warrior Festival. Mr. Puryear presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation.

b. Tennessee Science Teacher of the Year- Mr. Erick Innis, McMinn County High School

Mr. Blevins recognized Mr. Erick Innis on being selected as the 2017 Tennessee High School Science Teacher of the Year. Mr. Blevins presented him a certificate of recognition for his achievement and thanked him for his dedication to the profession. Mr. Blevins asked Ms. Jill Pierce, CTO, to play a segment of the video Mr. Innis put together entitled "What I've Taught" First Semester of Biology that has gone "viral". Mr. Blevins asked Mr. Innis to share a little about the video he created.

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Mr. Innis said this video project began over a year ago when he had the idea to create a music video of what he had taught first semester in his high school Biology class. Mr. Innis said the lyrics were set to the tune from one of the songs in the musical "Hamilton" with permission from the writer to use. Mr. Innis also thanked Ms. Sarah Dalbey and her show choir students for assisting with the vocals on the video.

Mr. Blevins, the board, and the audience conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Innis.

c. Board of Distinction Presentation- Julie Bennett, TSBA Southeast District Director

Ms. Julie Bennett, TSBA Southeast District Director, presented the school board with a plaque for meeting the qualifications to continue their Board of Distinction status with TSBA. Ms. Bennett said this award is given to school boards meeting their highest standards and carrying out every responsibility of their board duties including planning, policy and board development.

Ms. Bennett presented the plaque from TSBA to Chairman Brown who accepted the award on behalf of the entire board.

d. Student Volunteer Award Recognition-

Secondary Supervisor, Mr. John Burroughs, said in the absence of Ms. Norma Barham, he would like to recognize two students for this award sponsored by the United Way of McMinn County. Mr. Burroughs said one student from each high school guidance office was nominated to represent the United Way of McMinn County at the Governor's Volunteer Stars Luncheon this spring in Nashville as recognized for their community volunteer efforts.

The student nominated from Central High School was Haden Blair. Mr. Burroughs stated Haden Blair developed a program for elderly in his community called "Golden Hearts" and meets with elderly members of his church and community to lead exercise sessions. Mr. Burroughs stated Haden is also very involved in his school clubs and youth organizations.

Ms. Caitlyn Smith was nominated by the guidance office at McMinn County High School. Mr. Burroughs stated Ms. Smith was very involved her school clubs and organizations along with Deeper Student Ministries at her church.

Mr. Burroughs presented each of the students a plaque acknowledging their nominations and stated Mr. Haden Blair was the selected student that will represent McMinn County at the Governors Luncheon this spring.

Mr. Blevins and Chairman Brown congratulated both students on their achievements and their school and community involvement.

**2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Minutes- Regular Monthly Session Meeting- November 9, 2017

b. Salary Supplements

NAME	Date	ACCOUNT	TITLE	AMOUNT
Buck, Sue	11/17/2017	Englewood	Bus Driver	60.00
Buck, Sue	11/21/2017	Englewood	Bus Driver	60.00
Buck, Sue	11/29/2017	Englewood	Bus Driver	60.00
Carter, Brent	11/30/2017	Rog. Crk	Mechanic	60.00

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Cook, Paul	10/20/2017	Englewo od	Bus Driver	60.00
Cook, Paul	11/21/2017	Englewo od	Bus Driver	60.00
Donahoe, David	11/20/2017	EKB	Bus Driver	60.00
Eddington, Jeff	10/21/2017	CHS	Bus Driver	100.00
Ghorley, Betty	11/3/2017	Englewo od	Bus Driver	40.00
Ghorley, Betty	11/21/2017	Englewo od	Bus Driver	60.00
Givens, Kathie	10/31/2017	Niota	Bus Driver	60.00
Givens, Kathie	11/21/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	60.00
Givens, Kathie	10/25/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	40.00
Jennings, Kathy	10/31/2017	Riceville	Bus Driver	40.00
Keltner, Larry	11/20/2017	Niota	Bus Driver	60.00
Liner, Louise	11/16/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	20.00
Liner, Louise	11/21/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	60.00
Liner, Susan	10/6/2017	Calhoun	Bus Driver	60.00
Liner, Susan	11/21/2017	Calhoun	Bus Driver	40.00
Liner, Susan	11/11/2017	MCBOE	Bus Driver	75.00
Mason, Sam	11/4/2017	MCHS	Mechanic	50.00
Mason, Sam	12/4/2017	MCHS	Mechanic	50.00
McConkey, Stan	11/29/2017	Englewo od	Bus Driver	60.00
McDonald, Tommy	11/20/2017	EKB	Bus Driver	60.00
Melton, Pat	11/4,5/2017	Calhoun	Café Mgr.	150.56
Moss, Lisa	10/30,31, 11/2-3,6-8,10,13,15- 17,20,21/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	280.00
Moss, Lisa	12/6/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	40.00
Murray, Mary	11/16/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	60.00
Murray, Mary	10/30-31, 11/1-3,6-10,13-25,17,20- 21/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	320.00
Murray, Mary	11/27-12/1/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	100.00
Norwood, Marcy	10/23-27,30-31, 11/1-3,6-10,13-17, 2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	800.00
Norwood, Marcy	11/20-21,27-29; 12/1,4-5/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	320.00
Nunley, Lyn	10/26-27,30, 11/2,6-10,13- 17,21,2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	340.00
Nunley, Lyn	11/27-12/1/2017	Spec. Ed	bus Driver	100.00
Passmore, William	11/16/2017	MCHS	Bus Driver	60.00
Passmore, William	10/24/2017	Calhoun	Bus Driver	60.00
Passmore, William	11/21/2017	MCHS	Bus Driver	60.00
Pierce, Ron	12/1/2017	Niota	Bus Driver	60.00
Rutledge, Millie	11/20/2017	Riceville	Bus Driver	40.00
Skidmore, Chris	11/3-4/17	MCHS	Teacher/Bus Driver	150.00
Strickland, Marvin	11/4/2017	MCHS	Bus Driver	50.00
Strickland, Marvin	12/4/2017	MCHS	Bus Driver	50.00
Sulzer, Kathy	10/23/2017	CHS	Bus Driver	60.00

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Sulzer, Kathy	12/1/2017	MVS	Bus Driver	60.00
Tate, Jackie	10/30/2017	MVS	Bus Driver	60.00
Tate, Jackie	11/3/2017	MVS	Bus Driver	60.00
Tate, Jackie	10/23/2017	CHS	Bus Driver	60.00
Tate, Jackie	11/21/2017	MVS	Bus Driver	60.00
Tate, Jackie	12/1/2017	MVS	Bus Driver	60.00
Vincent, Angie	11/11/2017	MCBOE	Bus Driver	75.00
Watkins, Judy	10/6/2017	Spec. Ed	Bus Driver	60.00

c. Bids and Purchases

**BID**

Annual Paper & Plastic products bid for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 30, 2018.

**Items used by the Board of Education:** *(also highlighted in blue on the attached bid sheet with bid recommendation highlighted in orange.)*

<b><u>Items</u></b>	<b><u>Bid Recommendation</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Toilet Tissue-2ply	American Paper & Twine	24.94
Paper Towels	Kelsan	32.50
Paper Towel dispenser (Auto)	Kelsan	22.96
Paper Towel, roll type kitchen	Kelsan	15.50
10 oz. hot/cold cups	American Paper & Twine	23.90
Trash Bags 8 gal	AVM Enterprisess	7.18
Trash Bags 20-30 gal	American Paper & Twine	13.76
Trash Bags, 60 gallon	Kelsan	28.00

d. Budget Amendments

**GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND #141**

To budget funds received in FY 2017-18 for reimbursement of expenditures incurred during FY 2016/17 which provided high cost services to special education students.

**GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND #141**

To enter the budget for the Scott & Murial Mayfield Family Foundation fine arts supply grant.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, TITLE I, #018**

To amend the current budget in order to be the same as the FY 2017-2018 ePlan document.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, TITLE I, #108**

To amend the current budget in order to be the same as the FY 2017-2018 ePlan document.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, TITLE II, #208**

To amend the current budget in order to be the same as the FY 2017-2018 ePlan document.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, TITLE V, #508**

To amend the current budget in order to be the same as the FY 2017-2018 ePlan document.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS 3142, IDEA, PART B #908**

To amend the current budget in order to be the same as the FY 2017-2018 ePlan document.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS #142, IDEA, PRE-K #918**

To amend the current budget in order to be the same as the FY 2017-2018 ePlan document.

e. Fundraiser Request

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McMinn Career and Technical Center-Cosmetology Department requests to sell T-shirts, January, 2018. Monies raised will be used for CTSO Regional and State Events.

f. Contract of Special Education Services

This contract for Special Education Services is between McMinn County Schools and Lee University (LUDIC) for special educational services for one student for the period of January 4, 2018-May 23, 2018 not to exceed \$5,250 per child or \$1050 per month, pro-rated for students not attending the entire school year.

g. Field Trip Request

McMinn County and McMinn Central High School Band Departments request permission to travel to Walt Disney World, Florida, to perform and participate in an instrumental workshop for concert bands and color guards. The dates of the trip are April 4-9, 2018.

h. Surplus Equipment

A list of equipment requested to be declared as surplus was submitted for approval by Riceville Elementary School and the McMinn Career and Technical Center. The old technology equipment submitted from Riceville is valued under \$250 and will be used for recycled parts. A couple of transmission jacks and an engine hoist was submitted by the CTE valued over \$250 and will be declared as surplus for re-sale.

Chairman Brown asked for any items to be pulled from the regular consent agenda. There were none. Mr. Blevins recommended the regular consent agenda for approval. A motion to approve was made by Donna Cagle, seconded by Quinten Howard. Chairman Brown asked for discussion. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### 3. PERSONNEL

a. Personnel Actions

#### PROFESSIONALS

Last Name	First Name	Assignment	Action	Location	Effective
<b>ESP</b>					
Brooks	Pamela	Bus Driver	Hire		11/20/2017
Burke	Kathleen	Music/Art Instructor	Hire	Calhoun	11/2/2017
Davis	Shirley	PT Cook	Hire	Riceville	11/27/2017
Dixon	Christina	Music/Art Instructor	Hire	MVS	11/7/2017
Swafford	Joy	Music/Art Instructor	Hire	EKB/Rog. Crk.	11/13/2017
Weaver	Savana	PT Spec. Ed. Aide	Hire	Niota	11/28/2017

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Ball	Celia	Cook	LOA	RCVLE	10/16-12/15/17
Bates	Melissa	Teacher	LOA	RCVLE	11/30-12/15/17
Duggan	Pamela	Cook	LOA	MVS	9/12-12/4/17
Jones	Hannah	Teacher	LOA	Calhoun	1/17-3/23/18
Morgan	Wanda	Custodian	LOA	MCHS	11/27-3/5/18

Chairman Brown stated this information was provided for the board's information only and required no board action.

### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Teacher of the Year Luncheon- January 9, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at the Center for Excellence

Mr. Blevins invited the board to attend the annual Teacher of the Year Luncheon with teachers being nominated for this recognition by their peers from their respective schools.

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b. Work Ethics Diploma, Ms. Annie White, Pathways to Prosperity of Southeast Tennessee

Mr. Blevins informed the board the information being presented tonight was included in the board packet with a proposal to adopt this recognition by adding a seal to high school senior diplomas for those students who meet the qualifications set forth for a Work Ethic Diploma. Mr. Blevins asked Ms. Elizabeth Pierce-Oswalt, Career and Technical Education Supervisor, to introduce tonight's guest.

Ms. Oswalt introduced Ms. Annie White who works with our Pathways and Career Coach, Ms. Krissi Smith, in preparing our students for the manufacturing and industry workforce with work-based learning. Ms. Oswalt stated with the Work Ethics Diploma, students will receive recognition and an opportunity to interview with partnering industries and manufacturers in Tennessee.

Ms. Annie White, Program Manager with Pathways stated she has been working with manufacturers of their specific credentials required of their employees. She said the idea of the work ethics diploma originated in North East Tennessee and is spreading quickly. Ms. White said the diploma consists of students meeting industry standards with points associated relative to professional skills. Ms. White said students must earn 20 points their senior year and in doing so, will earn a seal on their diploma recognized by partnering industries. Ms. White said the idea is to assist our students to come more eligible in their post-secondary employment with neighboring industries.

Chairman Brown asked if this is limited to certain types of industries or open to anyone who would like to partner. Ms. White stated they are looking to expand their partnership to healthcare and IT companies. Ms. White said in this area, the partnering industries include Denso, Johns Manville, Adient. Ms. White also stated that she assisted Ms. Krissi Smith in conducting mock interviews with students earlier this year that would qualify for diploma points.

Donna Cagle asked who was going to keep track of the points. Ms. White stated there were a lot of different ideas and stated one of the benefits of the career coach is to assist with the tracking. Ms. Cagle stated with the popularity of this diploma we cannot get all of our students in the CTE courses now. Ms. Calge also asked if this was open to other non-CTE students. Mr. Blevins said with some of our more popular CTE classes, there might be a wait to get into the class. Melinda King said in speaking with some of the kids at career day, the majority of the students have no idea what they really want to do after high school and some do not foresee college in their future. She said this program is just another great option to provide for our students.

After several minutes of discussion regarding the tracking and verification of the students required credentials, Melinda King asked if we would begin this year recognizing the diploma. Mr. Blevins stated we could if all the details were worked out.

Mike Lowry asked how long companies have been aware of this diploma and said he couldn't understand why they all wouldn't join the partnership. Rob Shamblin said he had lots of questions of the details and would like to see a plan as to our requirements and understand how we are going to manage it.

Mr. Blevins said we can approve to move forward tonight and then come back to the board and present it in a question and answer session with more specific details at a later date if needed.

Mike Lowry made a motion to approve, seconded by Donna Cagle. Chairman Brown asked Mr. Blevins for his recommendation with the understanding that he would come back later to the board with specifics and details.

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Mike Cochran asked if we are approving Mr. Blevins recommendation to recognize the work ethic diploma this year or are we making a motion to commit and then move forward in working out the details to bring back for a final vote. Mr. Cochran stated he doesn't see the harm in waiting to vote when we come back with more details.

Ms. Cagle asked who would be accountable for the tracking. Mr. Blevins stated we would have to assign someone on our staff such as Ms. Oswald and Ms. Smith to lead the efforts and will need to work this out.

Chairman Brown stated we had a motion and second on the floor. Rob Shamblin asked for further discussion. Mr. Shamblin asked Mr. Lowry if he would consider amending his motion to add that we would approve to move forward and would research it further and come back to the board at a later date with more information.

Mr. Lowry stated he didn't see the need in this as we are trying to get our senior students ready for the workforce. Mr. Lowry said he doesn't have a problem voting again but doesn't understand the need. He said we need to throw the responsibility of accountability back on our students.

Melinda King said we are going to have some guidance from the school system to assist students in meeting the requirements and that she didn't see a problem moving forward with a vote.

Mr. Blevins stated we would need to move fast on this and that Ms. Oswald and Ms. Smith would assist in carrying this out. Ms. Oswald stated they are going to start the process of meeting with students to see where they are with the required checkpoints. Ms. Oswald further stated the students who qualified for the work ethics diploma would have the same opportunity with partnering industries statewide and not just those in our immediate area.

Ms. Brown stated we have a motion and a second on the floor and asked for a roll call vote.

Mike Cochran asked if we vote to proceed and not fully implement, nothing changes for seniors regardless of tonight's vote.

Rob Shamblin asked Mr. Blevins if we have the recommendation to do this, do we have the resources to carry out the requirements.

Mr. Blevins stated this will require a lot of man hours. Mr. Blevins said the responsibility is going to be the promotion to students and their families with intentions to have this worked out by February. Mr. Blevins further stated that we may have to come back and say we do not have the manpower to carry this out this year.

Chairman Brown asked for a roll call vote.

Mike Lowry	Yes
Quinten Howard	Yes
Donna Cagle	Yes
Mike Cochran	No
Sharon Brown	Yes
Tony Allman	Yes
Rob Shamblin	Yes
Denise Cunningham	Yes
Melinda King	Yes

Mike Cochran stated he would vote "yes" on the idea but "no" on the way it is to be carried out.

Chairman Brown stated the motion passed to approve the Work Ethics Diploma.

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### c. Resolutions

#### 1) Appreciation of McMinn County Educators

Mr. Blevins said this resolution comes from the major standards shifts this year with teachers spending many hours to change to the new standards as presented. Mr. Blevins said this resolution is in support and encouragement to our teachers as they do what they do for the kids. Mr. Blevins said if approved, he would like to distribute a hard copy to each and every educator in the school system to let them know the board stands behind them. Chairman Brown stated we can never say thank you enough to know they always focus on the children first.

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to accept. A motion to accept was made by Quinten Howard, seconded by Melinda King. Chairman Brown asked for further discussion. Mike Cochran stated he knew we were going to get this out to our teachers but that he would like for the board to put together a resolution to the governor to send as to the specific issues we are having with our testing programs pinpointing the issues. Mr. Blevins said he and other school superintendents met with Dr. Forgety recently regarding the issues with our current testing programs and he would encourage the board to reach out to Dr. Forgety and members of our legislation, as well.

Chairman Brown asked for a voice vote. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### 2) Supporting Accountability in Public Education

Mr. Blevins said several school systems around the state are sending this resolution to our current state leaders. Mr. Blevins said as far as vouchers go, there are several private organizations driving the support to vouchers for private schools. Mr. Blevins said anyone who takes money away from our public schools should be held to the same accountability as our teachers and students. He further stated that they should be on the same playing field as we are held accountable. Mr. Blevins encouraged everyone to support this resolution.

Chairman Brown asked Mr. Blevins for his recommendation. Mr. Blevins recommended the resolution for approval. A motion to approve was made by Quinten Howard, seconded by Mike Lowry. Chairman Brown asked for further discussion.

Mike Cochran stated he felt as though we were fighting this issue from the wrong angle. Mr. Cochran stated we should be asking the question as to why are parents wanting to take children from public schools to private schools- why this shift? Mr. Cochran said he felt there were two issues he is hearing from parents:

##### 1) Moral Issues

##### 2) Education Standards

Mr. Cochran said also, we see a lot of parents that are not happy with the current education standards as to where they are now. Mr. Cochran said there is a reason as to why this is happening and we need to research this further.

Chairman Brown stated we had a motion and a second on the floor. Mr. Cochran interrupted and asked Chairman Brown to wait for more time. Mr. Cochran stated there is a reason why people are pushing for vouchers and that we can do the same thing but attack from a different direction. Mr. Cochran said he decided if he was going to sign a resolution on this issue what would he like to see signed. Mr. Cochran said he had drafted a resolution for consideration and distributed this out to board members.



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Chairman Brown stated we had a motion and second on the floor and asked for a vote. A voice vote was recorded. There was one opposing vote tendered by Mike Cochran.

Donna Cagle commented to the handout from Mr. Cochran and said she hasn't had a chance to read it but that we do need to discuss if there is a problem and asked Mr. Blevins if there is a problem.

Mr. Blevins stated we are always working to get better such as our Read to Be Ready initiatives and with our K-3 standards being raised to that of a more rigorous level is challenging our students. Mr. Blevins said we are doing everything in our power to make education the best part of our children's lives.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **a. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

## **6. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL'S REPORT**

Mr. Blevins reminded the board of the Christmas Break schedule that he had emailed to the board previously. Mr. Blevins said all buildings would be closed with the exception of the Central Office being open on the holiday schedule.

Mr. Blevins said the board had probably noticed our central office building is currently under construction. Mr. Blevins said this involves changing the outside appearance to add new brick, siding, and upgrades to the front of the building. He further stated the project is scheduled for completion January 1.

## **7. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS**

## **8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

### **a. Next regular session meeting- Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.**

Chairman Brown reminded the board of the candidate disclosure statements that require completion by each board member and submitted online by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Brown stated there could be a penalty applied if the statements were not completed.

Chairman Brown said there was a conflict with the next regular session meeting with several board members being out of town in training. Ms. King also stated she would be out of town. Chairman Brown stated the board meeting would be moved to Thursday, January 18, 2018.

Donna Cagle said she read the handout from Mr. Cochran and said she would like for the board to look at this at a future date. Rob Shamblin agreed. Chairman Brown stated we can look at this at a future date.

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Quinten Howard, seconded by Mike Lowry. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned.

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Chairman's Signature

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Director of School's Signature

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