

February 16, 2017

MCMINN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CALLED BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 16, 2017

The McMinn County Board of Education met in a called session on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:45 p.m. at the Center for Educational Excellence. The meeting was precluded by a board workshop with the following agenda:

5:30-6:45 p.m.	Technology Plan
6:45-6:55 p.m.	Break
6:55-7:15 p.m.	Overview of the Success of the Instructional Coach Program
7:45-8:00 p.m.	<b><i>Called Board Meeting – Proposed Technology Plan</i></b>
	Adjourn

The Technology Plan was presented and discussed prior to the called board meeting. Ms. Jill Pierce gave an overview of the proposed plan including a demonstration of a teacher classroom with the new technology. The proposal includes the following in three (3) phases:

Phase 1 (February, 2017)

- To upgrade 125 classrooms with a 70" touch panel, enhanced audio, and a new teacher laptop (2 in 1-touch/stylus) **\$585,000**
  - 40 Blended Learning Classrooms which includes the 70" touch panel, enhanced audio, new teacher laptop, and 30 new student laptops (mobile cart) **\$552,800**
  - Network completion **\$100,000**
- Total cost: \$1,237,800**

Phase 2 (June, 2017)

- Upgrade 125 classrooms with 70" touch panel, enhanced audio, and new teacher laptop
- Total Cost: \$585,000**

Phase 3 (July, 2018)

- Upgrade 125 classrooms with 70" touch panel, enhanced audio, and new teacher laptop
- Total Cost: \$585,000**

Mr. Blevins said when the board appointed him as the director six years ago, one of his goals was for technology upgrades. Mr. Blevins said we are no longer behind anyone in technology.

Ms. Pierce said during her tenure with the school system, they have provided Office 365 downloads for all students and teachers, new email accounts to teachers and high school students, upgraded network wiring, installed new security cameras at all schools, upgraded intercom systems, upgraded internet access, increased our professional development opportunities, added 1300 student machines last year,

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upgrades to old phone systems, and was eligible and received ERATE money for internal use for the first time this year receiving \$450,000.

Ms. Pierce said the proposed technology plan included over a three year period, to upgrade all 375 physical classrooms with new technology. She said the advantages are:

- Teachers will have the same devices
- Student access- every student will benefit
- Increase Soft Tech Skills
- Enhanced Audio for better learning

Ms. Pierce stated this will put McMinn County Schools a “step above” as no other school system across the state will be this advanced with technology. She said the quotes listed included the removal of the old technology and installation of the new technology. Ms. Pierce said we will start this summer with the application process for the forty (40) blended learning classrooms (1:1) with any teacher in the system able to apply. She further stated these classrooms will give our teachers and kids access to strong technology.

Ms. Pierce had a couple of board members to experience the new technology on display which included a teacher laptop, screen, and enhanced audio.

Ms. Cagle asked the question if she thought the technology would last ten years. Ms. Pierce said she thinks we will get more out of this. She said the proposed technology comes with a five year warranty.

Mike Cochran asked what the cost to maintain the equipment would be. Ms. Pierce said for the first five years, there would none due to the warranty provision but after this, we were probably looking at a cost of \$3000 per year with cost of ownership.

Mike Cochran said he would like to take this proposal to the teachers and see if they want to use it. Ms. Pierce stated she would not be presenting this to the board without letting them see a sampling of this.

Rob Shamblin asked if there were any other schools in the state who had this technology. Ms. Pierce said there was not. Mr. Shamblin asked how new this technology was. Ms. Pierce said it is not that new, but that it is now more affordable. Ms. Pierce said the total estimated cost for the classroom upgrades was \$4600 per classroom with each panel being a 4k video display.

Tony Allman asked if the student computers would be assigned to students or stay in the classroom. Ms. Pierce said at first, they will remain in the classroom on a cart.

Mr. Blevins reviewed the financial portion of the proposal with the board. He said the school system’s undesignated fund balance in 2012 was \$2,726,211. He said as of July, 2016, that had increased to \$4,789,394. Mr. Blevins said the state mandates a required balance of one percent which would be \$1,183,125. He stated the total cost of Phase 1 would be \$1,237,800. He said this would leave us with an undesignated fund balance of \$3,551,594 on June 30, 2017.

Mr. Blevins said Phase 2 was estimated to be at \$585,000. Mr. Blevins said the proposal would be to take this amount from the 2016/17 rollover balance with Phase 3 proposal to be taken from the

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2017/18 rollover balance. Mr. Blevins said after all phases and costs, we would still have over three times the amount needed in reserve as required by the state.

Mr. Blevins stated we are in the first wave of counties to move forward with Blended Learning Classrooms and that our students and teachers are just as deserving as any other students and teachers.

Ms. Pierce stated the proposal was to provide 40 classrooms with the new technology package through a teacher application process. She said teachers who are selected to receive the new technology classrooms, will be required to complete training in the summer. Mr. Blevins said at first, the student computers would stay in the classroom.

Mike Cochran asked what grades were going to receive the 1:1 computers. Mr. Blevins said it would depend on the teachers applying through the application process. Mr. Cochran stated he was all for technology but he has a problem with students not being able to write cursive and now we are giving them computers and sometimes that just isn't smart. Mr. Blevins asked if we would hold one thing hostage for another. Donna Cagle asked that if a teacher with a good Smartboard already installed in their classroom is approved for the 1:1 grant, would another teacher get their old Smartboard. Jill Pierce said we had a plan in place in regards to old technology including Smartboards. Ms. Pierce said we would salvage any equipment to be used, if nothing else, for parts as we phase out old technology. Ms. Pierce further stated that we would also sell older working boards on Gov Deals for some of the surplus technology. Ms. Cagle further stated she would like to see the high schools receive the new technology first to help the students that are going right into college. Mr. Blevins said the plan was that as of October, 2017, we would have approximately 250 out of the 375 total classrooms installed with the new technology, but the 40 blended learning classrooms would be on an application process. He stated going forward with the 1:1, he would recommend at the high school level to provide them by departments.

Tony Allman asked if the money was currently available to spend. Mr. Blevins stated the money was available for the proposal and that he and Ms. Pierce would be going to the County Commission to request the money be allocated to the appropriate line items for expenditures.

*(The board workshop continued with the Review of the Board Tours of Schools and the Overview of the success of the Instructional Coach program.)*

### **Called Board Meeting-Proposed Technology Plan**

Chairman Howard called the meeting to order. Mr. Howard requested of the board to add an item to the agenda for him to appoint, and the board to approve, the replacements of Mr. Cantrell, Ms. Hampton, and Mr. Shamblin for committees. Chairman Howard asked for a motion to approved adding the revised appointed committees to the agenda for approval. A motion to approve was made by Mike Lowry, seconded by Sharon Brown. Chairman Howard asked for discussion. Melinda King said that after Monday night's appointment by the commission, would we not have another board member to assign. Chairman Howard said he would address that if the board approves to add this to the agenda. A roll call vote was taken:

Tony Allman	Yes
Sharon Brown	Yes
Donna Cagle	Yes

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Mike Cochran	Yes
Quinten Howard	Yes
Melinda King	Yes
Mike Lowry	Yes
Rob Shamblin	Yes

Chairman Howard stated the motion carried 8-0.

Chairman Howard said the first item to approve was the technology plan as presented earlier tonight by Ms. Pierce, Mr. McCracken, and Mr. Blevins. Mr. Blevins recommended the approval of the technology plan. A motion to approve was made by Donna Cagle, seconded by Melinda King. Chairman Howard asked for discussion. Mike Cochran asked if it was possible to vote on the purchase of the technology screens and the 1:1 separate. Mr. Cochran said he would like to have time to think about the one to one computers. Chairman Howard stated it would take an amendment to change it as there was already a motion and a second on the floor. Mr. Blevins stated we will come back to the board with the full proposal of the 1:1 classrooms. Mr. Blevins stated tonight's proposal was a three year plan to get 370 classrooms installed with the panel screens and at this point, we were only proposing 40 classrooms with the 1:1. Rob Shamblin asked if these were assigned to specific grade levels. Mr. Blevins stated the selection would be by application. Chairman Howard asked for a roll call vote:

Tony Allman	Yes
Sharon Brown	Yes
Donna Cagle	Yes
Mike Cochran	Yes
Quinten Howard	Yes
Melinda King	Yes
Mike Lowry	Yes
Rob Shamblin	Yes

Chairman Howard stated the motion carried 8-0.

Chairman Howard asked Mr. Shamblin to distribute the revised committee appointments.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mike Lowry - Chairman  
Tony Allman  
Mike Cochran  
Quinten Howard  
Joe Coleman

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Sharon Brown - Chairperson  
Donna Cagle  
Melinda King  
Rob Shamblin  
*2<sup>nd</sup> District Appointment*

**SICK LEAVE BANK COMMITTEE**

**Professional**

Sharon Brown, Chairperson  
Donna Cagle  
Cathy Castor  
Annette Ray  
Mickey Blevins

**Education Support Personnel**

Melinda King, Chairman  
Rob Shamblin  
Elaine Geren  
Dean Holt  
Mickey Blevins  
Maxine Roberts (alternate)

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**DISCIPLINARY HEARING AUTHORITY**

Rebecca Morgan, Chairperson  
Kristi Darnell                      David McDonald  
Coley Woody                      Glen Puryear  
Jeff Gilbert                      Amy Bohannon, Secretary

**ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Scott Bennett, Chairman  
Sharon Brown, Secretary  
Mike Lowry

**MILITARY RECOGNITION COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE**

Donna Cagle, Chairperson  
Melinda King, V. Chairperson  
Melinda Miller, EKB Teacher  
Tiffany Plaster (parent volunteer)

**BOARD ADVOCACY**

Melinda King, Chairperson  
Mike Lowry, V. Chairperson  
Sharon Brown  
Diane Vinson  
Dr. Phillip Swanson  
Norma Barham  
Lee Parkison

**FIVE YEAR PLAN COMMITTEE**

Melinda King, Chairperson      Tony Allman  
Mike Cochran                      Mike Lowry

**SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Sharon Brown, Chairman                      John Gentry, Mayor  
Roger Freeman, V. Chairman                      Marvin Kelley, E911 Director  
Joe Guy, Sheriff                      Melinda King  
Jonathan Pierce                      Shane Sewell

**Tennessee Legislative Network Representative:** Donna Cagle

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Jonathan Pierce

***NOTE: The Board Chairman and the Director of Schools are ex officio members of all Board Committees.***

Mr. Howard shared the changes and said if you will notice, he assigned the newly appointed District 2 board member, whomever this will be, to the policy committee. Chairman Howard recommended to approve the committee assignments. Sharon Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Shamblin. Chairman Howard asked for discussion. A roll call vote was taken:

Tony Allman	Yes
Sharon Brown	Yes
Donna Cagle	yes
Mike Cochran	Yes
Quinten Howard	Yes
Melinda King	Yes
Mike Lowry	Yes
Rob Shamblin	Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

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Chairman Howard asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Lowry, seconded by Sharon Brown. 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