# Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
## Board of Education
### Minutes
#### January 14, 2014

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<td>• Roll Call</td>
<td>Present: Cheryl D. Mayes, Chair Anna Shepherd, Vice-Chair Dr. Jo Ann Brannon Amy Frogge Michael Hayes Elissa Kim Will Pinkston Jill Speering Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools Marquetta Bowling, Student Board Member</td>
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<td>Absent: Dr. Sharon Gentry Akaninyene Eyoh, Student Board Member</td>
<td>Ms. Mayes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>• Pledge of Allegiance</td>
<td>Led by Stephen Henry, MNEA President.</td>
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Community Meeting at Madison Middle School**
  
  Ms. Speering made notice of a Community Meeting for parents and teachers and the general community on January 21st, from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at Madison Middle School. There will be discussions around high-stakes testing, the evaluation system, and other parental concerns. She encouraged the community to attend the meeting.

- **MNPS National Recognition**
  
  Ms. Speering, Ms. Mayes, and Mr. Pinkston all congratulated Dr. Register, Dr. Steele, staff, and MNPS community partners for the district’s national recognition received from President Obama.

- **FAFSA Night at McGavock High School**
  
  Ms. Shepherd thanked Duolite for their support during FAFSA Night at McGavock High School.

- **Tennessee Achieves**
  
  Ms. Shepherd announced that the first Tennessee Achieves meeting will be held January 15th at McGavock High School. Ms. Shepherd will be meeting with four students she has been assigned to mentor through the program.

- **School Board Member of the Year**
  
  Ms. Shepherd congratulated Ms. Frogge for being named School Board Member of the Year by the publication School Matters.

- **Most Courageous Student Award**
  
  Ms. Shepherd congratulated Malala Yousafi for being named the Most Courageous Student by the publication School Matters.
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<td><strong>Antioch Cluster Community Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Pinkston announced that he and Ms. Mayes will be hosting a community meeting on January 18th at 10:00 a.m. at Camp Widjiwagan in Turner Hall, to discuss the new school in the Antioch Cluster that will serve the Antioch and Percy Priest areas.</td>
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<td><strong>Board Retreat</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Mayes announced that the Board Retreat will be held January 24th-25th at Fall Creek Falls State Park.</td>
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<td><strong>Board Work Session</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Mayes announced the next Board Work Session will be January 28th at 5:00 p.m. A Director’s Evaluation Committee meeting will be held that day at 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>TSBA Day on the Hill</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Mayes announced that TSBA Day on the Hill will be held February 18th.</td>
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<td><strong>WATCH D.O.G.S.</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Mayes announced the district-wide launch of WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) will be January 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgestone Arena.</td>
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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Kathy Smith - Old Central High School Facility Use Band Room
  - Ms. Smith addressed the Board concerning the Old Central High School Band Room. She thanked the Board for allowing the Central High School Alumni to use the facility. She also asked that repairs be made to the roof of the building.

**GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

1. Consent Agenda
   - Ms. Speering pulled Item V-A-1-c—4- NCS Pearson, Inc. Ms. Speering made the following comments about the Pearson contract. I want to thank Jay Steele, Dottie Critchlow, and the entire committee who served on the team to select the universal screener. Last week, the entire committee met with Anna Shepherd and me to discuss AIMSWEB by NCS Pearson, Incorporated. I appreciate the opportunity to raise concerns from my own experiences and from the parents and educators I represent. After two hours of discussion, I have more clarity and want to give a brief summary of the assurances I have received from Jay Steele in regards to the Pearson contract. As you may remember, there is a sense of urgency concerning the selection of the screener. By state mandate, the screener must be in place for the 2014-15 school year or meet state sanctions. The goal is for all training concerning the screener to be completed by August 1st of this year. (Pearson’s training will be complete by May; however, we have built the RTII module to be completed by August 1st, especially for new teachers.) After working with the committee and Jay Steele, the following assurances have been made: “Non-sense words” will be eliminated from the universal screener. We know as reading specialists that there is NO place for a lack of meaning within the
1. Consent Agenda – continued

process of reading. The decision to eliminate the non-sense assessment does not affect the validity of the screener. This has been confirmed by Pearson. AIMSWEB will not be used as an option for the 15% in the teacher evaluation process. When a screener is given high stakes, unproductive behaviors can occur (such as teaching non-sense words or instructing children to read fast). Such behaviors can be counterproductive to literacy attainment. Although we are approving a 5-year contract tonight, we can break that contract with a 30-day “termination for convenience” notice to Pearson. After 6 months of piloting AIMSWEB, if teachers and parents feel that it is not meeting the needs of students or that it is in some way counter-productive to learning to read, MNPS will revisit it, and may select a new committee which will be inclusive of teachers and principals who may select a new universal screener. I feel certain that the committee and administrators in the district understand the need to include voices of active educators on all future committees. Dr. Steele has assured me that any future RFP committees will be comprised of teachers, principals, and district staff when selecting products that support instruction or assessments. I greatly appreciate the response that our district has made to the concerns voiced by parents and teachers in this regard. With these assurances in place, I recommend that we approve the Pearson contract.

Ms. Speering made the motion to approve the NCS Pearson, Inc. contract. Ms. Shepherd seconded.

Ms. Frogge pulled Item V-A-1-c-5- Teach for America. Ms. Frogge asked Ms. Cour for more information on the contract concerning the distribution of the funds.

Ms. Shepherd made the motion to approve the Teach for America contract. Mr. Hayes seconded.

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<td>1. Consent Agenda - continued</td>
<td>Cambridge International Examinations, (8.) University of Cambridge International Examinations; V-A-1-d- Recommended Approval of K-12 Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committee; V-A-1-e- Recommended Approval of Requests for Compulsory Attendance Waiver; V-A-1-f-Recommended Approval of Legal Settlement CASE NO: C-31275 ($8,000); V-A-1-g- Recommended Approval of Legal Settlement CASE NO: L-15538 – ($28,500). Ms. Shepherd made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Brannon seconded.</td>
<td>VOTE: 8-0 - Unanimous</td>
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<td>2. Recommended Approval of Proposed 2014-2020 Capital Improvement Budget (Capital Needs Committee)</td>
<td>Mr. Hayes announced that the vote on the Proposed 2014-2020 Capital Improvement Budget has been deferred until after the Capital Needs Committee meets on January 30th at 4:00 p.m. After the Committee meeting on January 30th, a Special Called Board Meeting will be held to vote on the Capital Improvement Budget.</td>
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**REPORTS**

A. Director’s Report
1. Pre-K/Early Childhood Initiative

Dr. Register, Ms. Wiltshire, Mr. Weber, and Ms. Steele presented a PowerPoint on the Pre-K/Early Childhood Initiative.

Ms. Frogge asked, will the existing Pre-K schools continue to have a fee for Pre-K services? Dr. Register said, the recommendation is not to change the fee structure. The recommended model sites will not have a fee, and priority status will be given to economically disadvantaged children. Pre-K classes will also continue to be blended classrooms. Mr. Hayes asked, why create model Pre-K centers instead of using the space in underutilized buildings to house Pre-K classrooms? Dr. Register said, centers service the community in a larger capacity, but both options will serve us best. Ms. Steele said we will have to utilize both options because there isn’t much space available, even at the under-utilized schools. Mr. Hayes asked if research showed that the new Pre-K centers will be well-attended and if more funds were needed to execute the new initiative? Ms. Steele said, she believes the seats will be filled and will meet a need in the community. Dr. Register said, the first step is to relocate existing programs and develop the capacity. Mr. Pinkston asked if the District was asking charter schools to help with this initiative? Dr. Register said, at this point in time, no. Mr. Pinkston asked, how will Pre-K help ELL students? Dr. Register said, to build the Pre-K programs to include ELL students will greatly benefit the District. Mr. Pinkston asked, what will a universal Pre-K look like? Dr. Register said, a universal Pre-K is a program that ensures that eligible Pre-K students can attend the program. Ms.
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<td>1. Pre-K/Early Childhood Initiative - continued</td>
<td>Shepherd asked, who will be serviced by this program? Ms. Steele said, children all over the District will be eligible to attend the schools. Ms. Mayes asked, how many students are on the wait list? Ms. Phillips said, around 1,000. Ms. Kim said, it is important that we develop what kindergarten students look like and work toward that goal. Ms. Speering said, she is concerned about the Pre-K students at Kirkpatrick. Ms. Steele said, the proposed changes will not affect Kirkpatrick. Dr. Brannon said, the Pre-K need is great because Pre-K programs help children with vocabulary, and also social training, which ultimately helps the district to make more gains.</td>
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B. Board Chairman’s Report

1. MLK Convocation

Ms. Mayes announced that on January 20th, the Pearl-Cohn High School Choir will be singing at the MLK Convocation at the TSU Gentry Center at 11:00 a.m.

WRITTEN INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

A. Board Calendar Items

B. Sales Tax Collections as of December 20, 2013

C. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating Budget Financial Report

- Adjournment

Ms. Frogge adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Signatures

Chris M. Henson  
Board Secretary

Cheryl D. Mayes  
Board Chair

Date