

October 9, 2017

The Johnson City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 9, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room at the Columbus Powell Center. The following members were in attendance:

Mr. Timothy Belisle, Chair
Mrs. Kathy Hall, Vice Chair
Mr. Thomas Hager, Jr., Secretary
Mr. John Hunter, II
Mr. Jonathan Kinnick
Dr. Richard Manahan
Mrs. Stacie Torbett
Dr. Steve Barnett, Superintendent of Schools

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING

- A. Belisle called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.
- B. A moment of silence was held.
- C. Students from Mountain View Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
- D. The opening for the meeting was provided by members of Mountain View chorus.
- E. Art work on display during October was provided by Mountain View students.
- F. Dr. Melissa Stukes, Principal, provided an update on Mountain View Elementary School.

2. RECOGNITIONS

Todd Ganger, TSBA Northeast District Director and chairman of the Washington County Board of Education, presented the 2017-2019 Board of Distinction plaque to the Johnson City Board of Education.

Dr. Debra Bentley presented the following recognition certificates on behalf of the Board:

- Indian Trail Intermediate and Science Hill High School earned Level 5 Distinction for Annual Growth based on the 2016-2017 TCAP results.
- Five Science Hill High School seniors were selected as 2017-2018 National Merit Semi-Finalists.
 - Justin Canfield
 - Molly Hance
 - Zeyun Wang
 - Clay Wheeler
 - Isaac Wright
- Cherokee physical education teacher Yvonne Holifield was one of 13 finalists for the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year.
- Science Hill drama teacher Richard Marshall was inducted into the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League Hall of Fame.

- The following individuals, agencies, and organizations graciously donated eyewear for students to observe the solar eclipse on August 21.
 - Fairmont - Dr. Torrey J. Carlson & Associates, Lens Crafters
 - Lake Ridge – Reeves Eye Clinic, Dr. Scott Gentry and Dr. Donny Reeves
 - Mountain View – Mountain View PTA
 - North Side – Dr. Torrey J. Carlson & Associates, Lens Crafters
 - South Side – South Side PTA and Heather Helton
 - Towne Acres – Dr. Ashley Baker and Dr. Cris Larzo
 - Liberty Bell – Johnson City Eye Center & LBMS PTSA
 - Science Hill – Johnson City Eye Clinic & SHHS PTSA
- Mountain View Principal Dr. Melissa Stukes will make a special presentation to Grace Fellowship Church.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

On recommendation by Barnett and on motion by Hall, seconded by Kinnick, and unanimously passed on a 7-0 vote, the Board adopted the agenda as presented. A copy of the agenda is included with these minutes.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE, DELEGATIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no correspondence, delegations, or communications for this meeting.

5. **REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF**

- A. The Board accepted the *Instructional Technology Report* as submitted on the agenda by Dr. David Timbs.
 - B. The Board accepted the *Building Projects Update* as submitted on the agenda by Dr. Roger Walk.
 - C. The Board accepted the *Update on Sales Tax – PEP* as submitted on the agenda by Leia Valley.
 - D. On recommendation by Barnett and on motion by Kinnick, seconded by Torbett unanimously passed on a 7-0 vote, the Board approved the *Financial Report Ending August 31, 2017* as submitted on the agenda by Leia Valley.
 - E. On recommendation by Barnett and on motion by Manahan, seconded by Hall, and unanimously passed on a 7-0 roll call vote, the Board approved *2017-2018 Budget Amendment #1* as submitted on the agenda by Leia Valley.
- Tom Hager commented for the record that Johnson City Schools is providing the Washington County Trustee Commission Fee that is \$410,000 a year.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for this meeting.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

On recommendation by Barnett and on motion by Hall, seconded by Kinnick, and unanimously passed on a 7-0 vote, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda items as presented:

- A. Board meeting minutes for September 7, 2017 (regular session)
- B. Internal School Fund Audit for 2016-2017
- C. SHHS Request to write checks over \$5,000
- D. Proposed fundraising activities: ITIS (1), and SHHS (6)
- E. Overnight field trip requests: LBMS (1) and SHHS (10)
- F. Annexation Assignments for Lake Ridge

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. School Funding Discussion

- Belisle opened the school funding discussion due to the recent article in the newspaper that quoted comments that were made during a county commissioners meeting. These comments could create a misconception regarding funding for the county schools versus the city schools. Barnett explained the history and development of funding for Johnson City Schools. The Johnson City School System was created by Johnson City and is a part of the Johnson City Charter. The city generates 87% of local sales tax revenue in Washington County. The city receives 69% of the total sales tax. City taxpayers also pay county taxes, therefore if the county decides to issue debt to fund a building project for the county school system, it must also give the city a portion of the money bonded. The Washington County Commission also voted for a \$.40 tax increase that went into effect during the 16-17SY. Johnson City receives approximately 47% of the \$849,000 received annually, which is about \$400,897. When the 40-cent tax increase was approved, the expectation of taxpayers who reside inside Washington County and Johnson City was that all students who are educated in Washington County would benefit from the increase. If the county commission chooses to build a cash fund with the capital portion of the increase, they are not obligated by law to share those funds with the city schools system. If the \$9,560,000 set aside by the Washington County Commission for 2016-2017 fiscal year is spent for school capital projects, the share obligated to the Johnson City Schools is \$4,266,281. Barnett further explained that both Johnson City and Washington County is funded at a very similar rate. In addition, Johnson City Schools are also supplemented 18% by city taxpayers
- Belisle commented that the newspaper article stated that Johnson City educates 47% and receives 69% sales tax revenue and the county receives 27%. It's important to note that Johnson City businesses generates about 85% of all sales tax that is collected within Washington County. County businesses generates about 5 or 6% of the revenue.

The implication is that county residents are not receiving their due, when in fact, sales tax revenue is much higher than what Johnson City actually receives. Johnson City generates more sales tax revenue, because over the years it has created the infrastructure to attract businesses and customers into Johnson City. Johnson City does not get 100% of the sales tax revenue that the city generates. The city shares that revenue with the county, that information is missed from the article and the comments quoted in the article.

- The newspaper article implied that the BEP formula was unfair to the county, based on fiscal capacity to fund education. Hall commented that there are many factors in the formula, such as salaries and property values. Belisle commented again the implication, that the city is skewing information negatively to the county is incorrect. In fact it goes the other direction. It is important to set the record clear, so that the public understands exactly how the funds are generated and divided. The city has invested and created an infrastructure to attract businesses and enhance the sales tax income for the city. The city should not be ashamed of that or penalized.
- Manahan commented that the formula was developed through legislatures to meet the constitutional standards that has not changed. Hunter commented that the city capitalized on their ability to pay and the willingness to invest. Kinnick agreed that the article just touched on the sales tax and gives the public an inaccurate misconception. The county taxpayers expected some of the 40 cent tax increase to be spent back to Johnson City, but 32 cents is not going to be spent on city schools. Sullivan County knew that option, but did not take advantage of that loophole. Johnson City Schools should not be negatively impacted, while finding a solution to the funding disparity.
- Torbett commented that all Johnson City residents need to realize they have paid the 40 cent tax increase and have not received their fair share. Manahan agreed and the record needs to be set straight of any manipulation of those dollars and statements in the newspaper article. Hager commented that the city charter is over a 100 years old and was created for great hopes for Johnson City Schools.
- Belisle suggested that the Board needs to schedule a meeting with Dr. Candice McQueen in Nashville to discuss funding. Hall agreed and also suggested that the Board invites state legislatures to have discussion at Central Office.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were shared with the Board: Board Calendar of Events; Personnel Items; Donations to: CO (2), CH (1), LR (3), WD (2), TA (3), LBMS (2), and SHHS (5). Fundraising Activity for Towne Acres PTA (1).

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board members reported on various committee meetings

12. BOARD UPDATES/DISCUSSION

Board members shared updates and discussed items of interest to the Board/school system.

13. **MEETING DATES**

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.
- A special session will be held on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in the Maple Room to review Sections 1, 3, and 4 of Board Policy.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

attachments: Copy of Agenda

**Johnson City Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 09, 2017 6:00 PM
Central Office**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING

1.A. Call to Order and Welcome
Tim Belisle, Board Chair

1.B. Moment of Silence
Tim Belisle, Board Chair

1.C. Pledge of allegiance to the flag
Students from MV

1.D. Opening
Students from MV

1.E. Art work on display
Students from MV

1.F. Update on MV
Dr. Melissa Stukes, Principal

2. RECOGNITIONS

Public attachment - October 2017 Recognitions

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. CORRESPONDENCE, DELEGATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

5.A. Instructional Technology Report
Public attachment - 2017-19 Board Tech Plan (9-25-2017)
Dr. David Timbs

5.B. Building Projects Update
Public attachment - BUILDING PROJECTS UPDATE
Dr. Roger Walk

5.C. Update on Sales Tax - PEP
Public attachment - 10-9 PEP Sales Tax
Leia Valley

5.D. Financial Report Ending August 31, 2017
Public attachment - 10-9 Financial Report
Leia Valley

5.E. 2017-2018 Budget Amendment #1
Public attachment - 10-9 Budget Amendment #1

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Public attachment - M-September-07-17R

7.B. Internal School Fund Audit for 2016-2017
Public attachment - 10-9 Internal School Fund Audit 2016-2017
Leia Valley

7.C. SHHS Request to write checks over \$5,000
Public attachment - SHHS write checks over \$5,000

7.D. Proposed Fundraising Activities
Public attachment - Proposed Fundraiser Activities
Public attachment - SHHS Beta Club

7.E. Overnight Field Trip Requests
Public attachment - Overnight Field Trips
Public attachment - SHHS Overnight Booster Clubs

7.F. Annexation Assignments LR
Public attachment - Annexation Assignments LR
Cindy Lawson

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR ACTION

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. School Funding Discussion

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.A. Board Calendar of Events
Public attachment - BOE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10.B. Personnel Items
Public attachment - October 2017 Personnel Items

10.C. Donations
Public attachment - Donations
Public attachment - LR reeves eye1 donation
Public attachment - TOWNE ACRES MEMO board request Donation
KROGER 2z

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public attachment - Board Committee Reports

12. BOARD UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

13. MEETING DATES

Public attachment - BOARD OF EDUCATION UPCOMING MEETINGS

14. ADJOURNMENT