

**MINUTES
CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA**

The City Board of Education of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, met for the Board's regular meeting in the office of the City Superintendent of Education of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, on September 12, 2022, at approximately 6:06 p.m. The meeting followed a work session held at 5:30 p.m. The secretary called the roll with the following results:

Present: Celia Rudolph

Marilyn Davis

Sonya Allman

Cory King

Clayton Wood

Absent: None

Also present were Chad Holden, Superintendent and ex-officio Secretary to the Board and custodian of its minutes and records, Kelli Nichols, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief School Financial Officer, Sherry Langley. Administrators present included Sheneta Smith, Wes Pounders, Jason Simmons, Britney Schneider, Diana Ritter, Kevin Davis, and Jeff Madden. Also present were Supervisors Terry Pearson, Todd Meckes, and Richard Templeton.

Board President, Dr. Celia Rudolph, declared a quorum present and the meeting duly and legally constituted and open for the transaction of business.

A motion to approve the September 12, 2022, agenda was made by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Allman. No discussion followed and the motion was subsequently approved with five yes votes.

Dr. Rudolph asked Dr. Holden if any correspondence had been received that he would like to share with the Board. Superintendent Holden announced that Mr. Charles Anderson had provided the gift of a book entitled *Electric City: The Lost History of Ford and Edison's American Utopia* to Board members and most employees. Mr. Anderson's generosity was noted.

Superintendent Holden stated the next item on the agenda was a video presentation "Learning is an Adventure" highlighting achievements from Highland Park Elementary School.

Dr. Rudolph proceeded with the meeting agenda.

I. Business Action Items

Superintendent Holden read the following resolution regarding Consent Agenda action items:

Consent Agenda Resolution

For the consent agenda, the Board has been furnished with background material on each item or has discussed the item at a previous meeting. Consent Agenda items will be acted upon with one vote without discussion. If a Board member wants to discuss any item, it will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

A. Dr. Holden recommended approval of the following Consent Agenda items:

1. *Minutes – August 22, 2022 (Regular Meeting)*
2. *Minutes – September 1, 2022 (Special Meeting – Budget Hearing #1)*
3. *Bills & Accounts for August*
4. *August Financial Report (August bank statements have been reconciled)*
5. *FY2023 Capital Plan*

A motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation was made by Mrs. Allman and seconded by Mr. Wood. No discussion followed and the superintendent's recommendation was approved by five yes votes.

B. Dr. Holden recommended consideration of board policy action on Policy 6.26, Parent Opt-In for Mental Health Services, that was tabled at the August meeting. After the draft policy was sent to stakeholder groups, AEA representative, Ms. Moore, stated "it was fine." No other comments were received. Dr. Holden stated on September 8, the State Board of Education defined "ongoing school counseling services" as expected. He also stated the proposed Muscle Shoals policy is in line with the definition approved by the State Board of Education. Dr. Rudolph asked for a motion to remove Policy 6.26 from the table. A motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. King. No discussion followed and the motion to remove the policy from the table was approved by unanimous vote. After removing the policy from the table and there being no further discussion, Dr. Rudolph called for a vote to approve the superintendent's recommendation to adopt Board Policy 6.26, Parent Opt-In for Mental Health Services. The policy adoption was subsequently approved by unanimous vote.

C. Dr. Holden recommended consideration of an amendment to Board Policy 4.10, Political Activity. Dr. Rudolph asked for a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation which was made by Mr. King and seconded by Dr. Davis. In discussion, Dr. Holden stated the policy change is recommended by the Alabama Association of School Boards. The revision strengthens and clarifies what constitutes prohibited political activity by employees while on duty and while on school grounds. The changes are necessary because of a new law in Alabama that further restricts school systems in advocating for or against ballot measures. Most

of the language is already contained in the current policy. The proposed amendment provides specifics. Board member, Mrs. Allman, made a motion the policy be tabled to allow time for consideration by stakeholder groups. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood. The tabling motion was subsequently approved by five yes votes. The policy is shown at the end of these minutes.

- D. Dr. Holden recommended consideration of new Board Policy 2.5.5, Hybrid meetings Due to Illness. Dr. Rudolph asked for a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation which was made by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Allman. In discussion, Dr. Holden stated the legislature has tweaked the Open Meetings Act allowing school boards the ability to hold hybrid meetings under certain circumstances with some exceptions. There are still details to be worked out but we have been advised to begin the "meet and confer" policy process and then officially adopt the policy after the attorney general has ruled. A Board will be required to wait at least 45 days before it holds its first hybrid meeting following the policy adoption. In discussion, Board member, Mr. Wood, made a motion the policy be tabled to allow time for consideration by stakeholder groups. The motion was seconded by Mr. King. The tabling motion was subsequently approved by five yes votes. The policy is shown at the end of these minutes.

- E. Personnel Report

Superintendent Holden recommended approval of the Personnel Report. A motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. King. No discussion followed and the superintendent's recommendation was approved by five yes votes.

For the benefit of the audience, the Personnel Report was read by Dr. Holden. The Personnel Report is shown at the end of these minutes.

- F. Budget Hearing #2

The FY2023 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2022) Budget Hearing was presented by Sherry Langley, Chief School Financial Officer. She stated the budget was prepared under the guidance of the district's mission statement and thanked administrators and her staff for their assistance with preparation of the budget. Mrs. Langley reviewed the contents of the budget packet and gave definitions of terms used throughout the budget. It was explained that anyone can ask questions or

provide feedback on the presented budget. Mrs. Langley gave a comparison on staff this year vs. staff last year. Many details from the first budget hearing were reviewed. Mrs. Langley stated there had been no responses after the first hearing and announced how to make comments regarding budget hearing #2, if desired. President Rudolph thanked Mrs. Langley and her staff for the prep and presentation of the budget and asked if anyone had any comments. There were no responses from the Board or audience.

Superintendent Holden recommended approval of the FY2023 Budget be approved as presented. A motion to approve the superintendent’s recommendation was made by Mr. King and seconded by Mrs. Allman. No discussion followed and the superintendent’s recommendation was approved by five yes votes.

II. Superintendent’s Report/Academic Update/Announcements

Dr. Holden expressed congratulations to the following groups/individuals:

- Congratulations to Muscle Shoals Board of Education members for being recognized by the Alabama Association of School Boards (one of four Boards in District 8) for a commitment to leadership development. The Board will be formally recognized at the fall district meeting on September 13 in Decatur. The four systems being recognized had 60% or more of their members to attend at least three AASB conferences and all of their members to meet the state-mandated training requirements for the year ending June 30, 2022.
- The Muscle Shoals Education Foundation has scheduled a fundraising event. On Tuesday, October 4, 2022, “A Night of Laughter” will be presented at Shoals Theatre. Tickets are \$30 and seats are reserved. Tickets are on sale now. Three comedians will entertain and the MSMS/MSHS dance teams will perform between acts.
- Thursday, October 6, will be the date for the official ribbon cutting of the Muscle Shoals Early Learning Center Pre-K. The official ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m. with an open house that evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Congratulations to Coach Scott Basden for securing his 200th win as a head football coach this past Friday night when the Trojans defeated Athens. Dr. Holden read a resolution that will be presented to Coach Basden at a later date. The resolution is shown at the end of these minutes.

III. Adjournment

Dr. Rudolph asked if there was any other business to be addressed or any comments from the Board. There being no remarks, Dr. Rudolph declared the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Attest:

Chad Holden
SEAL

Personnel Report

I. Resignation/Retirement

- 1. Melissa Barber**
Teacher at Webster Elementary, Effective September 16, 2022
- 2. Melanie Shockley**
Teacher (8th grade) at Muscle Shoals Middle School, retiring; last work day will be December 16, 2022
- 3. Hogan Isbell**
Part-time, temporary groundskeeper, effective immediately.

II. Employment

- 1. Ken Martin**
System-wide custodian assigned to Muscle Shoals Middle School. Regular 260 day assignment. Effective September 13, 2022
- 2. Lance Uhlman**
Maintenance/HVAC specialist. Regular 260 day assignment. Contingent upon background clearance. Effective date TBD

III. Other

- 1. Allison Weaver**
2022-2023 Mentor supplement for new teacher hired after school started (Angela Yuille). \$1,000.00. To be paid from state funds.

Information Only - Not for board action:

Kelly Services Staffing Update

- **Genesis McWhorter**– MES Paraprofessional position

Board Policy 4.10 Political Activity

Board employees may participate in political activities to the full extent permitted by the United States Constitution and federal and state laws securing the right to engage in such activities, subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Employees may not appropriate Board property or resources for use in political campaigns, and may not engage in partisan political activities (including but not limited to the distribution of campaign material or literature) during regular school or duty hours or at Board sponsored or sanctioned events, functions, or at activities at which the employee is on duty or assigned official responsibilities;
- b. Employees may not represent their political beliefs or positions on political matters to be those of the Board or other Board officials, or to falsely assert or imply that their political activities or positions are endorsed by or undertaken in the name of the Board or other Board officials;
- c. In order to avoid disruption to the classroom and the school, employees may not wear or display political buttons, clothing, or banners during regular school or duty hours or at Board sponsored or sanctioned events, functions, or at activities at which the employee is on duty or assigned official responsibilities;
- d. In order to avoid obstructing the parking lot or otherwise disrupting school activities, employees may not place large signs or billboards in or on personal vehicles in the school parking lot;
- e. Candidates and representatives of candidates for political office may not be invited or allowed to address student groups except when 1) such candidates are participating in a forum or like format that is designed to provide all candidates the opportunity to participate; or 2) the candidate is a current public official invited to address student groups for non-campaign related purposes. Such forums may be conducted only for appropriate age groups, and with the advance approval of the school principal and the Superintendent;
- f. Political signs may not be placed on schools or school board property; and
- g. Campaign literature and other material may not be distributed on Board property during the regular school or work day and may not be distributed at school or Board sponsored events or activities in a manner that impedes the normal and safe movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, that creates any other safety hazard or risk, or that disturbs or disrupts the function, activity, or event.

Notwithstanding these restrictions, any common area that is available for use by the general public may be used for political purposes as long as such area is available to all candidates on an equal basis and such activity does not disrupt the normal business of the property.

Board Policy 2.5.5 Hybrid Meeting Due to Illness

2.5.5 **Hybrid Meetings Due to Illness** - A board member is authorized to participate in a board meeting electronically if (1) a quorum of board members is physically present at the board meeting and (2) the board member is unable to be physically present due to illness. The following procedures apply to electronic participation by a board member under those circumstances:

- A. **Illness.** For purposes of this policy, “illness” includes:
- personal illness;
 - doctor’s quarantine;
 - isolation or quarantine based on guidance from the board, the Alabama Department of Public Health, or the Centers for Disease Control;
 - incapacitating personal injury; or
 - caring for an ill member of the board member’s immediate family (parent, spouse, child, foster child currently in the care and custody of the employee, sibling) or an individual with a close personal tie if no other competent caretaker is readily available.
- B. **Notice by Board Member.** A board member unable to be physically present due to illness must notify the Superintendent and Board President to inform them of the need for a hybrid meeting as soon as practicable and should take steps to confirm receipt of such notice if necessary. By requesting to attend electronically, the board member is certifying that they are unable to attend the meeting due to illness.
- C. **Determination by Superintendent.** The Superintendent is authorized to determine whether sufficient time exists to arrange for the board member to participate in the meeting electronically and to provide access to the public.
- D. **Available Methods for Electronic Access.** If sufficient time exists, the board authorizes the following methods to provide electronic access to the board member and public as long as persons physically attending the meeting are able to hear the subject board member:
1. telephone conference;
 2. video conference; or
 3. other similar communications equipment that allows all participants to hear one another at the same time.
- E. **Determination of Method for Electronic Access.** The Superintendent or designee will determine the appropriate means of providing electronic access to the board member considering the location of the meeting, the technology available to the board member, and the time available to arrange for electronic access.
- F. **Public Access.** Instructions regarding how the public can access the meeting electronically may vary depending on the method of access chosen and will be included in the notice of the meeting if such information is available at the time the meeting is noticed. If the information is unavailable at that time, it will be posted in the same manner the meeting was originally noticed as soon as practicable.
- G. **Method of Voting.** Votes taken during a meeting where a board member is participating electronically under this policy will be taken as a roll call vote that allows each participant to vote individually in a manner audible to all persons participating or present at the physical location of the meeting
- H. **Expense Reimbursement Prohibited.** A board member participating in a meeting electronically may not claim any form of reimbursement for expenses relating to that meeting, including mileage.

Muscle Shoals Board of Education

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Coach Scott Basden has served as the Head Coach of the Muscle Shoals Trojans football team since 2008; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Basden's leadership, the Trojans have consistently competed at the highest levels; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, countless student athletes have graduated from Muscle Shoals High School and moved on to achieve their college and professional dreams of playing football at the next level; and

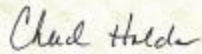
WHEREAS, the overall athletic programs of the Muscle Shoals City Schools have prospered under his leadership as athletic director; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2022, Coach Scott Basden secured his 200th career win as a head football coach when the Muscle Shoals Trojans defeated the Athens Golden Eagles by a score of 28-20; and

WHEREAS, this achievement places Coach Basden in an elite group of only fifteen active high school coaches in Alabama today to win 200 football games;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscle Shoals Board of Education wishes to express its congratulations to Coach Basden, as well as his wife, Millie, and their sons, Walker, Bentley, and Bryant, on this outstanding professional achievement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be entered into the minutes of the Muscle Shoals Board of Education and that a copy be presented to Coach Scott Basden.



Superintendent of Education



President, Board of Education