

GERMANTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, February 3, 2014 – 8:00 p.m.

Houston High School, 9755 Wolf River Blvd. Germantown TN 38139

A meeting of the Germantown Board of Education was held on February 3, 2014 at the Houston High School Auditorium, Germantown, TN.

The following Board members were present: Lisa Parker, Ken Hoover, Mark Dely, Linda Fisher and Natalie Williams. The Board of Education Attorney Debra Owen, the Superintendent for the Germantown Municipal School District, Jason Manuel and his Executive Secretary, Vijaya Subramani, Chief of Staff for the Germantown Municipal School District, Dan Haddow and his Executive Secretary, Pat Pritchard were also present.

Call to Order

Chairman Lisa Parker called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM

Moment of Silence

Chairman Lisa Parker asked for a moment of silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Lisa Parker invited Boy Scouts Troop 270 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Natalie Williams announced that only 11 policies were proposed to be approved during the meeting

Motion by Linda Fisher, seconded by Mark Dely, to approve the agenda as written

ROLL CALL: Fisher- yes, Dely – yes, Williams – yes, Parker – yes, Hoover – yes. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mark Dely, seconded by Linda Fisher, to approve the minutes as written from the meeting on January 20, 2014

ROLL CALL: Hoover- yes, Parker – yes, Williams – yes, Dely – yes, Fisher – yes. Motion approved.

Superintendent Report

Jason Manuel briefed on the work being done regarding Shared Services among the newly formed Municipal School districts in the areas of Transportation, Payroll processing, Technology etc. and Superintendents' Meetings are being held every Tuesday to discuss the various options and developments in the Shared Services. He also informed that Commissioner Huffman, Head of Department of Education for the State of TN gave valuable guidance in this regard

Manuel also gave an outline of the process of hiring personnel, especially Teachers who will be given a letter of Intent by end of February. The Parents of current students and incoming students to Germantown Municipal schools are given the opportunity to register in a Survey on the website to get an idea of the projected enrollment in the Germantown Municipal Schools

Citizens to be Heard

Chairman Lisa Parker explained the procedures to follow for the citizens to be heard

There were no citizens to be heard at this meeting

Adoption of School Board Policy

The following 11 School Board Policies were placed to vote after second reading- Policy Code Numbers 1.802, 1.805, 3.208, 4.605, 5.403, 5.500, 5.801, 6.307, 6.314, 6.403, and 6.409.

After the second reading the proposed policy changes are as follows,

1.802 as previously proposed

1.805 as previously proposed

3.208 as previously proposed

4.605 add lines 12-28 back

5.403 add to line 26 after CDL employees "and drivers of district owned vehicles" / also to line 29 after the word function "or who drive a district vehicle as a part of their job function."

5.500 as previously proposed

5.801 add back in line 7-8 "An interim director.....selection procedures". Also add back in line 18-19 "Resumes of.....public inspection."

6.307 as previously proposed

6.314 as previously proposed

6.403 as previously proposed

6.409 add line 7 "The Director of Schools shall develop training programs to ensure compliance."

5.401 and 6.404 were not being considered at this time

Motion by Vice-Chairman Ken Hoover, seconded by Natalie Williams to approve the adoption of the above 11 policies

ROLL CALL: Fisher- yes, Dely – yes, Williams – yes, Parker – yes, Hoover – yes. Motion approved.

Old Business

Vice Chairman Ken Hoover presented updates on negotiations regarding Germantown Elementary.

He thanked the Chairman Lisa Parker for appointing him to negotiate on behalf of the Germantown Board of Education.

He said " We were all encouraged on December 10th when Superintendent Hopson, Chairman Woods and Board Member Billy Orgel, each indicated that Shelby County Schools was willing to continue discussing the possibility of assigning Germantown Elementary to the Germantown district. We looked forward to explaining why we believe that all children, and especially those children served by SCS, would be best served by having Germantown operate GES.

Billy Orgel, as lead negotiator for SCS, identified the first step as the submission of a proposal. We submitted a written outline of a proposal on December 18th. We never received any feedback on that proposal. Superintendent Manuel, (our counsel), and I made six separate requests for a meeting to discuss how our proposal would better serve all Shelby County children. These requests were made on December 20th, December 26th, January 2nd, January 6th, January 13th, and January 16th.

Unfortunately we never had the opportunity to discuss options to eliminate the disruption which will affect thousands of families. Superintendent Manuel and I did meet with Superintendent Dorsey Hopson on January 23rd. In his email confirming the meeting, Superintendent Hopson indicated that the decision to operate GES would not change. Superintendent Hopson reaffirmed that position very early in our face-to-face meeting. The SCS decision to operate Germantown Elementary for the foreseeable future is final.

Superintendent Hopson did explain the reason SCS decided to retain GES. SCS believes Germantown Elementary has the right combination of faculty and parental support to become a robust optional school within the SCS portfolio. Any capacity and growth considerations were not primary drivers.

We remain open to any opportunity to reevaluate the best and highest use of all of the school facilities located inside Germantown."

Lisa Parker appreciated Ken Hoover for his efforts on behalf of the Germantown Board of Education. She also said that she would like to request Hoover and Superintendent Manuel to negotiate regarding Germantown Community Television Studio.

New Business

- a) Superintendent Manuel introduced his new staff members Dan Haddow - Chief of Staff, Pat Pritchard- Executive Secretary to Chief of Staff, Autumn Enochs- Chief Financial Officer and Vijaya Subramani- Executive Secretary to the Superintendent.
- b) Manuel clarified with the Attorney Debra Owens to put to vote at this time the proposal to hire the E-rate consultant. This would allow getting information depending on the number of Free and Reduced students in the new system. Owens said it can be put to vote and Hoover gave his opinion that he felt it was ok to approve at this point due to the fact that it was a small amount of money involved in the process.

Motion by Mark Dely, seconded by Linda Fisher, to approve the hiring of E-rate consultant

ROLL CALL: Hoover- yes, Parker – yes, Williams – yes, Dely – yes, Fisher – yes. Motion approved.

- c) Superintendent Manuel placed before the Board the importance of joining The Association of Independent and Municipal Schools (AIMS). It is a voluntary not-for-profit organization of public city and special school districts that was founded in 1992. Its purposes are to promote the development and improvement of municipal and special school districts in Tennessee, protect the rights of those systems to maintain themselves, represent their interest in the General Assembly and other forums, foster closer ties among directors of schools, boards of education, and local government officials, and to enhance the leadership role of municipal and special district systems as “lighthouses for educational innovation and excellence.” The cost was \$500.00 minimum per year. Motioned by Mark Dely, seconded by Natalie Williams for approval of becoming a member of AIMS.

ROLL CALL: Fisher- yes, Dely – yes, Williams – yes, Parker – yes, Hoover – yes. Motion approved.

- d) Superintendent Manuel briefed on the three options for Teacher Insurance
- Individually Self Insured
 - State Insurance Program
 - Shared Municipal Insurance

Various aspects of the above three options will be discussed and submitted during the next meeting.

Announcements

Chairman Lisa Parker announced that after the discussions during the Retreat on Feb.1st the Board and the Superintendent have decided to hold a Board Work session every other Wednesday. The next board work session will be February 19th.

Superintendent Manuel justified the above decision and said that they need more time to develop the policies. Mark Dely mentioned that this would help everyone to be more efficient and well prepared. The next board meeting will be held on March 3rd.

Mark Dely thanked all the citizens for attending the meeting and the Boy Scouts Troop 270 for leading the Pledge of Allegiance

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Lisa Parker had the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

