

SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MINUTES

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at the Smith County Board of Education. Chairman Brian Smith provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Present: Tommy Manning Ricky Shoulders Marty McCaleb
Robin Moore Scotty Lewis David Apple Brian Smith
Barry Smith – Superintendent
Gina Morris – Supervisor
Jacky Bellar/Jamie Winkler – School Board Attorneys
Absent - Joe Taylor

Mr. Brian Smith, Chairman of the Board, welcomed all visitors and called the October meeting of the board to order.

The following administrators reported to the Board for back to school updates: Mrs. Meranda Cook-Defeated Elementary School and Mrs. Leslie Pope-Forks River Elementary School.

Mr. Ricky Shoulder made a motion to accept the following Consent Items A-E as presented by the Director:

- A. Approved minutes of the Board – September 18, 2018, regular meeting
- B. Approved Defeated Elementary School’s request for approximately 16 students to attend the State Beta Convention at Opryland Hotel on November 19 & 20, 2018. This will be an overnight stay.
- C. Approved Smith County Middle School’s request for 9 students to attend the State Beta Convention at Opryland Hotel on November 19 & 20, 2018. This will be an overnight stay.
- D. Approved Gordonsville High School’s request 40 students to attend the State Beta Convention at Opryland Hotel on November 15-17, 2018. This will be an overnight stay.
- E. Approved the 2018 LEA Compliance Report. The Compliance Report is *one* document used by the Tennessee Department of Education in the annual process of approving local education agencies. LEAs are required to comply with all state education laws and State Board of Education rules.

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Mr. Marty McCaleb seconded the motion.

The Superintendent took the following actions:

1. Staff Placement

- Amber West, Kindergarten Teacher, Defeated Elementary School
- Kayla Mason, RTI Paraprofessional, Smith County Middle School
- Warner Hale, Substitute Bus Monitor, Transportation Department
- William Grover, Substitute Bus Monitor, Transportation Department
- Jennifer Burton, Cook, Carthage Elementary School
- Lora Coffee, Cook, part-time, Union Heights Elementary School
- Rachel Sherrell, Cook, part-time, New Middleton Elementary School
- Heather Cooper, Special Education Paraprofessional, Carthage Elementary School
- Brianna Butler, Receptionist, Union Heights Elementary School

2. Substitutes

- Tracy Ausderau
- Joshua Murphy

3. School Volunteers

- Sonja Hammond, volunteer basketball coach, Union Heights Elementary School
- Brianna Gregory, volunteer assistant softball coach, Smith County High School

In New Business A, Mr. Tommy Manning made the motion to amend policy 4.700 – Testing Programs to align with Public Chapter 817 to update the percentages for future weighting of TNReady scores. Previously, the weighting for TNReady scores for the 2018-2019 school year, and thereafter, could be anywhere between 15-25%. Under the **new** law, there are separate percentage ranges for grades 3-5 and 6-8 to choose from that allow boards more flexibility. Below are teacher recommendations for weighting the TNReady scores in each grade range as they were surveyed for input.

WEIGHTING TCAP SCORES

TNReady⁴ and EOC⁵ scores shall be included in students' final grades as follows:

- a) *Districts must select a percentage from a range of 0% - 25% and insert information on grading period impacted; therefore, **Smith County grade ranges 3-5 chose 5 %** weighting of TNReady scores in students' final grade.*
- b) *Districts must select a percentage from a range of 10% - 25% and insert information on grading period impacted; therefore, **Smith County grade ranges 6-8 chose 10 %** weighting of TNReady scores in students' final grade.*

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- c) *Districts must select a percentage from a range of 15% - 25% and insert information on grading period impacted; therefore, **Smith County grade ranges 9-12 chose 15 %** weighting of TNReady scores in students' final grade.*

Smith County chose to use the **Cube-Root Methodology**. Note: Historically, the TDOE released quick score grades using the cube-root methodology, a fixed conversion factor. This methodology creates a 100-point grading scale using the raw score points earned. The equation for the cube-root methodology is as follows:

$$QS = \left[\left(\frac{RS}{TP} \right)^{(1/3)} \right] * 100$$

QS = Quick Score Grade on 100-point scale

RS = Raw Score points earned by Student

TP = Total Score Points available on test

Mrs. Robin Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Note: The Director of Schools may exclude these scores from students' final grades if results are not received by the district at least five (5) instructional days before the end of the course. This is the second and final reading for this policy.

In New Business B, Mr. David Apple made the motion to amend 4.600 Grading System to align with policy amendment 4.700 Testing Program to update the percentages for future weighting of TNReady scores. Under the **new** law, there are separate percentage ranges for grades 3-5 and 6-8 to choose from that allow boards more flexibility. Below is teacher recommendations for weighting the TNReady scores in each grade range as they were surveyed for input.

WEIGHTING TCAP SCORES

TNReady⁴ and EOC⁵ scores shall be included in students' final grades as follows:

- d) *Districts must select a percentage from a range of 0% - 25% and insert information on grading period impacted; therefore, **Smith County grade ranges 3-5 chose 5 %** weighting of TNReady scores in students' final grade.*
- e) *Districts must select a percentage from a range of 10% - 25% and insert information on grading period impacted; therefore, **Smith County grade ranges 6-8 chose 10 %** weighting of TNReady scores in students' final grade.*
- f) *Districts must select a percentage from a range of 15% - 25% and insert information on grading period impacted; therefore, **Smith County grade ranges 9-12 chose 15 %** weighting of TNReady scores in students' final grade.*

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Also, English III and Chemistry are no longer End-of-Course examinations, hence this language will be removed from the policy. Additional language change due to separate percentage ranges for grades 3-5 and 6-8:

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- The TCAP test grade for students in grades 3-5 will count 5% of the student's final grade for the second semester
- The TCAP test grade for students in grades 6-8 will count 10% of the student's final grade for the second semester

Mr. Marty McCaleb seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. This is the second and final reading for this policy.

In New Business C, Mr. Ricky Shoulders made the motion to approve Technology Supervisor Danny Claire's request to accept the lowest bid from DELL, Inc. and purchase 20 plus chromebooks for student use. The price for each chromebook is \$227.84. Mrs. Robin Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Manning Y Shoulders Y McCaleb Y Moore Y Lewis Y Taylor Absent Apple Y Smith Y

In New Business D, Mr. Tommy Manning made the motion to approve the FY19 Coordinated School Health grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. David Apple seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Manning Y Shoulders Y McCaleb Y Moore Y Lewis Y Taylor Absent Apple Y Smith Y

In New Business E, Mr. Scotty Lewis made the motion to approve the Family Resources Centers grant in the amount of \$29,611.65 for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Marty McCaleb seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Manning Y Shoulders Y McCaleb Y Moore Y Lewis Y Taylor Absent Apple Y Smith Y

In New Business F, Mrs. Robin Moore made the motion to approve an emergency purchase request made by School Nutrition Supervisor Stephanie Dyer of a double stack gas convection steamer for the cafeteria at Union Heights Elementary. The budget price for the steamer is \$16,804.26. This price does not include freight and installation. School nutrition funds will be utilized for this purchase. Mr. Ricky Shoulders seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Manning Y Shoulders Y McCaleb Y Moore Y Lewis Y Taylor Absent Apple Y Smith Y

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In New Business G, Mr. Tommy Manning made the motion to approve the only bid of \$2.549 from Mixon-Nollner for 1,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline fuel without ethanol. Mr. Marty McCaleb seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Manning Y Shoulders Y McCaleb Y Moore Y Lewis Y Taylor Absent Apple Y Smith Y

In Discussion A, Class Rank was the topic. A variety of honors and distinctions may be awarded to graduating students meeting state or locally specified criteria. As we strive for academic excellence where students are prepared in the best way possible with a stringent course of study, this discussion involved class rank and our current local criteria at the request of both high school principals. Our methods for determining academic honors and distinctions need to be more aligned with colleges and universities, since they are no longer recognizing old and dated class rank systems that are used in many school districts. One main change would be to switch from the district's current class rank to Latin honors designation categories – Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude. Both high school principals were present at the board meeting for input and recommendations on this topic. They believe this change would put all students on a level playing field. Another advantage in doing away with the current class rank system, is that it would encourage students to take courses they find interesting and more related to their post high school career path, rather than courses that would keep them on par for a certain class rank. This is an ongoing discussion between administrators and board members that *may* take effect with the class of 2023.

In Discussion B, the topic was on the possible implementation of a progressive pay plan for all school employees. This discussion was per the request of Board Member Scotty Lewis. The goal moving forward is to improve salaries for all school employees that is progressive in nature. Chairman Brian Smith requested Director Barry H. Smith to collect salary figures for a comparison with surrounding counties. This discussion will continue at the November meeting.

In Discussion C, Chairman Brian Smith noted there is a vacant seat on the Sick Leave Bank Committee due to the election of new board members. Chairman Brian Smith invited any board member to volunteer to serve, and Mr. Scotty Lewis accepted the appointment to the committee.

The following policies were reviewed for the October meeting to remain in compliance for policy review (these policies were given at the September meeting and reviewed for the October meeting). No changes were made on the policies:

Policy 1.100, School District - School Board Legal Status and Authority

Policy 1.101, Role of the Board of Education

Policy 1.102, Board Members Legal Status

Policy 1.104, Memberships

Policy 1.106.1, Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

Policy 1.106, Code of Ethics

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Policy 1.1061, Effective Boardsmanship Standards
Policy 1.107, Board Member Conflict of Interest
Policy 1.108, Nepotism
Policy 1.200, Method and Election of Officers
Policy 1.201, Duties of Officers
Policy 1.202, Duties of Board Members
Policy 1.203, New Member Orientation
Policy 1.204, Board Member Development Opportunities
Policy 1.205, Board-Director Relations
Policy 1.300, Board Committees
Policy 1.302, School Board Attorney
Policy 1.400, School Board Meetings
Policy 1.401, Public Hearings
Policy 1.402, Notification of Meetings
Policy 1.403, Agendas
Policy 1.404, Appeals to and Appearances Before the Board
Policy 1.405, Rules of Order
Policy 1.406, Minutes
Policy 1.500, Board-Community Relations
Policy 1.501, Visitors to the Schools
Policy 1.502, Board Meeting News Coverage
Policy 1.503, News Releases, News Conferences, and Interviews
Policy 1.600, Policy Development and Adoption
Policy 1.601, Administrative Procedures
Policy 1.602, Administrative Committees
Policy 1.603, Administrative Reports
Policy 1.700, School District Goals
Policy 1.800, School Calendar
Policy 1.801, School Day
Policy 1.8011, Emergency Closings
Policy 1.802, Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedures
Policy 1.803, Tobacco-Free Schools
Policy 1.804, Drug-Free Workplace
Policy 1.8041, Drug and Alcohol Policy
Policy 1.805, Use of Electronic Mail (e-mail)
Policy 1.806, Advertising and Distribution of Materials in Schools
Policy 1.808, Registered Sex Offenders

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Policy 3.219, Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

Policy 5.118, Background Investigations

Policy 5.403, Drug and Alcohol Policy

Tommy Manning gave an update from the Building Committee. They met with Republican Candidate John Rose on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at the Central Office. Mr. Rose, who had offered to donate property in Gordonsville for the construction of a new full-campus high school, spoke on his contingencies of his property donation. Mr. Rose confirmed his desire for the building project to be a full-campus high school that is the hub of the community to serve as a gathering place for both students and the residents. He specified his idea of a full-campus high school includes the instructional buildings and sports facilities on one campus where students would not have to move back and forth between facilities for sports practice or extra-curricular activities. Mr. Rose was adamant on the requirement that the high school be a full-campus, state-of-the-art facility that would include career and technical training. During the October board meeting, members discussed the need to acquire additional acreage if a full-campus building project was possible. Chairman Brian Smith granted permission to Director Barry H. Smith to seek out availability of sale and price on adjoining plots of land. Director Barry H. Smith will report back to the Board with his findings at the November board meeting.

Robin Moore gave an update from the Safety Committee. She stated this committee's next step is to set a meeting date and time with SRO Jason Stewart. Director Barry H. Smith identified some recent safety precautions made by Smith County Schools: a new fence has been installed on the New Middleton Elementary School campus, new radios for all rural schools, and repeaters to increase coverage access throughout the county.

With no further business, Mr. Tommy Manning made a motion to adjourn. Mr. David Apple seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary of the Board

Chairman of the Board

Date

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