October 22, 2019

MCMINN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
CALLED MEETING & BOARD WORKSHOP
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

The McMinn County Board of Education met in called session on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 4:30 P.M. Chairman Sharon Brown called the meeting to order and asked for a Roll Call:

PRESENT	ABSENT
Rob Shamblin	Donna Cagle
Mike Cochran	
Tony Allman	
Sharon Brown	
Quinten Howard	
Denise Cunningham	
Mike Lowry	
Donna Casteel	

Chairman Brown asked Mr. Parkison to review the items on the agenda.

1) Fundraiser Requests

McMinn County High School-
Tribe Rugby Club requests to have a Belk Charity Ticket sale- October 23-11/9/19
Monies raised will help offset expenses for tournament and traveling expenses.

AP Human Geography class requests to sell Stickers for laptop cases and water bottles. Monies raised will be used to purchase additional teaching materials and books for AP Human Geography Classes.

MCHS Softball team requests to sell Coca Cola Products to raise monies for general operations of the team including but not limited to equipment, uniforms, apparel, and field/building maintenance.

"Teacher Fund" at MCHS will have a Jean Week for cash donations. Monies raised will be used for faculty cards and gifts.

Rogers Creek Cheerleading requests to have a candy bar sale. Monies raised will be used for uniforms and end of the year trip.

Director Parkison said we have several requests for fundraisers and that he recommended each of them for approval. Chairman Brown asked for any discussion. A motion to approve was made by Tony Allman, seconded by Denise Cunningham. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2) Emergency Equipment purchase-

Emergency Purchase for repairs at McMinn County High School due to a lightning strike at the school that damaged the school gates and intercom system.
Vendor: Central Technologies
Amount: $35,678

Mr. Parkison stated we experienced a lightning strike to McMinn County High School at the start of the school year where lighting struck a tree, kitchen ovens, gates and the intercom system. He stated the repairs to the gates and the intercom system required board approval due to the amounts. Mr. Parkison said we had to repair the intercom system immediately at MCHS due to it being the first of the school year and that we had to fix the gates for safety purposes; therefore, we had to consider this an emergency purchase. Mr. Parkison asked Jill Pierce to give a little more information.

Jill Pierce stated the reason this requisition is coming in so late was that at the time of the adjuster visit, they didn't know the full extent of the damages. With it being the start of the school year, Ms. Pierce stated we had approval to proceed with some of the repairs and needed to get the gates repaired and the school intercom fixed as priorities. She said repairs to our school ovens were not as costly as expected and said she appreciated the efforts by Mike Lowry to assist with the tree removal.

Mr. Parkison recommended the requisition for approval. Chairman Brown asked for discussion. Mike Lowry made a motion to approve, seconded by Quinten Howard. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3) **A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE MCMINN COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVE A SALES TAX INCREASE REFERENDUM TO HELP FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF MCMINN COUNTY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the current local sales tax in McMinn County in areas outside the City of Athens is levied at a rate of two percent; and
WHEREAS, the City of Athens has recently increased its sales tax by .75%, totaling 2.75% within its corporate limits; and
WHEREAS, a county may preempt a city's tax increase according to Tennessee Code Annotated 67-6-703(a) and (b); and
WHEREAS, all increased revenue from the City of Athens sales tax increase will go to Athens and its school system unless McMinn County approves the same increase; and
WHEREAS, the City of Athens is the traditional retail center of the county and on average generates over 75% of all sales tax paid in McMinn County with the majority of that tax being paid by those living outside the municipal limits; and
WHEREAS, the McMinn County School System educates over 75% of students in the county, and therefore, the McMinn County School Board believes the people of McMinn County should have a voice in how those additional funds are spent; and
WHEREAS, upon enactment of the sales tax increase by McMinn County, the McMinn County School System would receive an increase in revenue based on the Weighted Full Time Equivalent Average Daily Attendance (WFTEADA), and projected on current economic conditions, county schools would receive approximately $1.5 million in additional annual revenue; and
WHEREAS, a recent feasibility study performed of McMinn County School buildings revealed the need of new buildings and capital improvements of our existing structures; and
WHEREAS, the McMinn County Board of Education requests these new monies be prioritized

to meet these capital investments to provide optimum learning environments for the students of McMinn County Schools; and
WHEREAS, the McMinn County School Board requests that the McMinn County Commission exercise its authority under Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 67-6-701 through 67-6-712 to enact a ballot initiative for a sales tax increase of .75%; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the McMinn County Board of Education assembled this **22nd** day of **October 2019**, urges the McMinn County Commission to allow the people of McMinn County to increase the local option sales tax from 2% to 2.75% via ballot referendum to help fund capital investments and improvements for the McMinn County School system.

Mr. Parkison said he had a meeting several weeks ago with our Finance Director, Jason Luallen and Mayor Gentry regarding the sales tax referendum. He said the county mayor's office drafted this resolution to pre-empt the city's resolution and asked the board to also consider approving this resolution. Mr. Parkison said this would be approximately $1.5 million recurring annually for our school system.

Mr. Parkison said we will ask the citizens of McMinn County to vote on this referendum to give us this amount of money. He stated that if we do not get this vote, the city gets all of this. Mike Lowry stated he feels that we need to do this.

Board members tendered several questions to Mr. Luallen regarding the proposed tax referendum and how it will affect both Athens City Schools and McMinn County Schools, Mr. Parkison said the City of Athens fully expects the county to preempt this tax referendum.

Chairman Brown said the board has had time to review this Resolution and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Chairman Brown asked for a motion to approve. A motion was may made by Tony Allman, seconded by Mike Lowry. Chairman Brown asked for a roll call vote.

Rob Shamblin	Yes
Mike Cochran	Yes
Tony Allman	Yes
Sharon Brown	Yes
Quinten Howard	Yes
Denise Cunningham	Yes
Donna Cagle	Yes
Mike Lowry	Yes

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4) BUDGET AMENDMENTS

GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND #141
To enter the approved Voc-Rehab budget for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND #141

October 22, 2019

To enter the approved budget for the 21st Century Grant for FY 2019/20

FEDERAL PROJECTGS #142, ATSI GRANT #171
To enter the approved budget for the ATSI Additional Targeted support and Improvement grant for FY 2019/20

Mr. Parkison recommended the budget amendments for approval. A motion to accept was made by Quinten Howard, seconded by Mike Cochran. Chairman Brown asked for further discussion. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Brown said this concludes our agenda and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Lowry, seconded by Quinten Howard. A voice vote was recorded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned.

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Chairman's Signature Director of School's Signature

Upon adjournment of the called meeting, the McMinn County Board of Education held a workshop to discuss continuing maintenance projects and to review the MCS Feasibility Study.

1. Maintenance Report

Director Parkison gave an update of the current status of our roofing structures at our schools. He said he had asked Roger Freeman and Jill Pierce to research and find our best solution. Mr. Parkison said Mr. Freeman met with Garland Company out of Chattanooga and they have prepared a full report of all of our buildings and the status of our roofs. He showed the report to the board and stated the report is broken down by school and by leaks. Mr. Parkison said the overall total was around $155,000. He informed the board of Riceville School of urgent need to get started as he would be getting this information out to the board for their review and consideration.

2. Feasibility Study

Mr. Parkison said the board has had a chance to review the overview of the recently performed MCS Feasibility Study provided by Mainstream Architects and MBI consultants. Mr. Parkison and the board discussed the proposals and the effects Athens City Schools' decisions would have on the school system. Rob Shamblin said he felt as though the board needed to have several plans of actions with each scenario.

Mr. Parkison had asked several architects from MBI Consultants to be present to help with any questions the board may have. Mike Lowry said that we need to move forward as building costs were increasing every day.

Discussion continued with board members regarding the proposal in the feasibility study to consolidate and do away with some of our elementary schools. Several board members expressed their concerns

with closing schools in their respective districts with potential consolidation of our schools. Donna Casteel said that when a community loses its school, it is not a good thing. Mike Cochran said he had several questions that would need to be answered to consider the idea and present to his constituents. Mr. Parkison said just one new building would ignite a community and then would take off.

Mr. Parkison said he would like to have the board and the county commission to take a bus ride to all of our current buildings along with our architects to see the status of our current structures and compare with the new proposals.

Mr. Parkison thanked the board and representatives from MBI for coming.