

**MINUTES
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, ROBERT BROWN III
NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

Present:

Robert Brown, III, Chairman
Darrell Rogers, Vice-Chairman
Terri Boyt
Shannon Burgdorf
Dillon Lamberth
Chrissi Miller
Danny Sullivan

Also Present:

Ben Allen, County Attorney
Merrol Hyde, Commission Chairman
John C. Isbell, County Mayor
David Lawing, Finance Director
Ken Weidner, EMA Director

Chairman Brown brought the regular meeting of the Education Committee to order with an invocation Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sumner County Administration building in Gallatin.

3. Adoption of the Agenda. Chairman Brown moved, seconded by Comm. Boyt, to amend to add a resolution of which there are two versions and an investigation of the Infinity Pipeline and the School Board, the items to be added under New Business as items b and c. The motion to amend the agenda carried unanimously. Upon motion of Chairman Brown, seconded by Comm. Sullivan, the Committee unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

4. Approval Minutes October 3, 2022. Chairman Brown moved, seconded by Comm. Miller, to amend to add "all other budget amendments passed" after "failed due to lack of second" under New Business, item A, after Amendments 3 & 4. The motion carried unanimously. Upon motion of Chairman Brown, seconded by Comm. Miller, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of October 3, 2022 as amended.

5. Recognition of the Public. Chairman Brown explained that each speaker would have three minutes with a total of fifteen minutes allowed for public comment. If time does not allow for all persons to speak, they may speak at the end of the meeting, if time allows, or carry the list over to next months meeting.

Patricia Smith of 112 England Place, Hendersonville spoke in support of approval of the safe school budget amendments.

Jessie McKinney of 209 Waterview Drive, Hendersonville asked the Committee to approve the safe school budget amendments.

Rebecca Goddard of 2339A New Hope Road, Hendersonville expressed her appreciation for the safety measures in place and asked that every stone be over turned before approving grant money.

Marlis Boyce of 1050 Glenbrook Way, Hendersonville spoke to concerns of data tracking with "You Science Software" in the schools.

Marie Mobley of 1058 Lt. Gibson Circle, Gallatin spoke to concerns of monitoring children in schools.

Melody Vaudrey of 3517 New Hope Road, Hendersonville spoke in favor of the safety measures in the schools but concerned about social workers teaching the children about emotional matters and thinks that should be left up to parents.

Meghan Bruning of 171 Wynebrooke Trace, Hendersonville spoke in support of approval of safe school budget amendments.

Due to time constraints the following were not allowed to speak:

Sarah Squires of 148 Chesapeake Harbor, Hendersonville

Pat Conner of 80 Hidden Point, Hendersonville

Kevin Baigert of 424 AB Wade Road, Portland

Charlene Aumiller of 143 Ruland Circle, Hendersonville

6. Report of the Chairman (Chairman's notes attached). Chairman Brown informed the Committee that he met with Scott Langford, Amanda Brown and department heads on October 19, 2022 concerning how the budget requests were being presented. Amanda Brown agreed to include a department memo to explain any vague or non-descriptive language for each request. Chairman Brown noted that was included in the agenda packet for this meeting.

a. Discussion on Tennessee Code 49-2-301 (2020) Director of Schools :: 2020 Tennessee Code :: US Codes and Statutes. Chairman Brown discussed and stated he would like to see this begin in January. No action taken.

b. New CDC mandate for students to have COVID vaccinations since we are recipients of the ESSER grants. Chairman Brown discussed. No action taken.

c. TCA 49-06-10119. Chairman Brown discussed. No action taken.

7. Report of County Mayor. County Mayor John C. Isbell thanked Chairman Brown for his attempt to keep meeting within specified meeting time but expressed his concerns with limiting time for public comments and not allowing everyone to speak.

8. Report of Director of Schools. Not present

9. Old Business.

- a. Budget Requests #3 and #4 Fund: 141-&SS Safe Schools Grant.
Chairman Brown began discussion on budget requests #3 and #4. (Chairman Brown's notes attached). Without objection Chairman Brown asked EMA Director Ken Weidner to explain the radio system/panic buttons more in depth.

Upon motion of Comm. Rogers, seconded by Comm. Sullivan, the Committee voted to approve budget request #3 and #4 Fund: 141-&SS Safe Schools Grant. Comm. Miller abstained from the vote.

10. New Business.

a. Budget Requests:

- #2 141-7 Leap Lottery for Education: Afterschool Programs;
Comm. Rogers, seconded by Comm. Lamberth, to begin discussion on budget request #2.

After discussion, Chairman Brown moved, seconded by Comm. Sullivan, to refer budget request #2 141-7 Leap Lottery for Education: Afterschool Programs to next month's old business. The Committee voted to approve to refer to next month's old business. Comm. Rogers voted against.

- #108 142.401 Title IV Student Support/Safe Schools;
#97 142.430 21st CCLC Cohort 2019 Student Support/Safe Schools;
#98 142.431 21st CCLC Cohort 2018 Student Support/Safe Schools;
#102 142.701 Title IX McKinney Vento Student Support/Safe Schools
#286 142.940 Resilient School Communities Grant Student Support/Safe Schools;

Chairman Brown moved, seconded by Comm. Burgdorf, to group and approve budget requests #108, #97, #98, #102 and #286 and forward to full Commission on the Consent Agenda. The Committee voted unanimously to group and approve and forward to full Commission on the Consent Agenda.

b. Resolution added during approval of agenda.

c. Infinity Pipeline and SCBOE added during approval of agenda.

Upon motion of Comm. Rogers, seconded by Comm. Miller, to refer remaining items 10b and 10c to next month's meeting under Old Business. The Committee voted unanimously to refer item 10b and 10c to next month's meeting under Old Business.

Adjournment.

Chairman Brown declared the Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m. upon motion of Comm. Boyt and seconded by Comm. Miller.

Prepared by Jennifer Mitchell

YOU SCIENCE SOFTWARE

Call to Order

I would like to call this education committee meeting to order this 1 Nov 2022 at 6pm.

Initial Announcement

This committee is going to try to hold to the scheduled meeting time of 55 minutes to an hour in order to not abuse our county employees, who have already worked a full day and now are here tonight. We will be using a clock for timed discussion for the public as well as ourselves. Commissioner Boyt will be our time keeper. She will be timing the whole meeting and each speaker and each item. Depending on the length of a budget request of which we have only two (one old and one new), we will determine whether the time needs to be extended by voice vote. The other budget requests are federal funds and are for County Commission Information Only.

Invocation

Approval of the Agenda

I would like to make a motion to amend the agenda with #1: a Resolution of which we have two versions and #2. an investigation that may lead to forming an ad hoc committee or more work for the Gen Ops committee of the Infinity Pipeline and the SCBOE, in New Business and make them items "b and c." Second? All those in favor? All those oppose? I now move that we approve the agenda. Second?

Approval of the minutes from 3 Oct

I would like make a motion to amend those minutes by adding under New Business, Item A, after Amendments #3&4. After "failed due to lack of second" add the sentence: All other budget amendments passed. Second? All those in favor? All those oppose? I now move that we approve the minutes. Second?

Recognition of the Public

As for recognition of the public, we will hold to a 15 minute timeframe which is one quarter of the allotted meeting time and I think that is fair. We will start with 5 minutes and go no lower than 3 minutes depending upon how many sign-up to speak. If there are others who wish to speak but don't get the chance in the allotted time, we may let them at the end of the committee meeting if we finish early or they will be the first to speak at the next committee meeting. The public can also contact us in numerous ways including: official email, social media, and phone. The standing rules of the full commission allow time for every citizen to speak on agenda items. Before you speak, please state your name and address for the record.

Chairman's Report

1. On 19 Oct, I had a meeting with Scott Langford, Amanda Brown, and the appropriate heads of each department concerning how budget requests were being presented to the

education committee. We came together in agreement that Amanda Brown put forth a department memo to explain all of the vague or non-descript machine language of each request that has to be approved by this committee. I think this is a big step forward because I had asked for it since 23 Sep. With these explanations we don't have to play 20 questions anymore and can expedite these requests.

2. 2020 Tennessee Code Title 49 – Education Chapter 2 - Local Administration Part 3 - County Administration Director of Schools

Para b. , 1. It is the duty of the board of education to assign to its director of schools the duty to:

Subparagraph Q: Make a written report, quarterly, to the appropriate local legislative body, for the board, of all receipts and expenditures of the public school funds, which accounts shall contain full information concerning the conditions, progress and needs of the schools of the school system and which shall be audited by the appropriate fiscal officer and local legislative body;

3. I am concerned about the new CDC ruling placing the Wuhan virus vaccination on the public school immunization schedule for all students. The emergency use for these vaccinations runs out in 2023 which shields the makers of these vaccines from lawsuits by the federal government. By placing it on the immunization schedule, the CDC is continuing this shielding for Pfizer, Moderna, and other manufacturers. Governor Lee has signed an executive order mandating that no Tennessee student will be required to get it. Our schools have taken the federal grant money tied to the ESSER funds with strings attached to the Wuhan virus. However this directive has not been the case in our Sumner County schools when laws were passed to restrict offensive, age-inappropriate, and sexually explicit textbooks and library books. Wit & Wisdom was adopted anyway and the purchases of library books that have transgressed these laws have been placed in our school libraries. I hope that we can get assurance that the governor's executive order will be followed and not circumvented by our BOE.

4. TCA 49-06-1019

Section 49-6-1019 - Concepts prohibited from inclusion or promotion in course of instruction - Withholding of state funds upon violation

(a) An LEA or public charter school shall not include or promote the following concepts as part of a course of instruction or in a curriculum or instructional program, or allow teachers or other employees of the LEA or public charter school to use supplemental instructional materials that include or promote the following concepts:

- (1) One (1) race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- (2) An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently privileged, racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously;
- (3) An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment because of the individual's race or sex;
- (4) An individual's moral character is determined by the individual's race or sex;

(5) An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;

(6) An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or another form of psychological distress solely because of the individual's race or sex;

(7) A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist, or designed by a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex;

(8) This state or the United States is fundamentally or irredeemably racist or sexist;

(9) Promoting or advocating the violent overthrow of the United States government;

(10) Promoting division between, or resentment of, a race, sex, religion, creed, nonviolent political affiliation, social class, or class of people;

(11) Ascribing character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex;

(12) The rule of law does not exist, but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups;

(13) All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; or

(14) Governments should deny to any person within the government's jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), this section does not prohibit an LEA or public charter school from including, as part of a course of instruction or in a curriculum or instructional program, or from allowing teachers or other employees of the LEA or public charter school to use supplemental instructional materials that include:

(1) The history of an ethnic group, as described in textbooks and instructional materials adopted in accordance with part 22 of this chapter;

(2) The impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history;

(3) The impartial instruction on the historical oppression of a particular group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or geographic region; or

(4) Historical documents relevant to subdivisions (b)(1) - (3) that are permitted under § 49-6-1011.

(c) If the commissioner of education finds that an LEA or public charter school knowingly violated this section, then the commissioner shall withhold state funds, in an amount determined by the commissioner, from the LEA or public charter school until the LEA or public charter school provides evidence to the commissioner that the LEA or public charter school is no longer in violation of this section.

T.C.A. § 49-6-1019

Added by 2021 Tenn. Acts, ch. 493, s 51, eff. 5/25/2021.

I am surprised that the Tennessee legislature has to write such laws to be this specific when we already have laws on the books about the various discriminations, age-appropriateness for minors, the innocence of our children, and willful perversion of our children by adults. The reason being

is that we have adults and educators who try to skirt these laws trying to find some loophole or push the envelope.

Through the Wuhan pandemic and its unnecessarily long shutdowns and ill-advised mandates, not to disparage those who died through poor medical protocols in hospitals and nursing homes and fatal co-morbidities, parents became aware of the curriculum with which their children were being indoctrinated. Parents became engaged because the curtain had been pulled back through Zoom classes online about the inappropriate content of curriculums, indoctrination, and books that had been in our children's classrooms.

Due to this law Williamson County is now involved in a lawsuit due to its adoption of the Great Minds publisher of *Wit & Wisdom* for English and reading in their curriculum. Great Minds tried to be edgy in this curriculum which was passed as the last item on the agenda one night with no discussion whatsoever at the Sumner County Board of Education.

Another library book, *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep, which is currently in the libraries of Merrol Hyde Magnet, Gallatin High School, and Station Camp High School, had another parent, David Coleman in Blount County, as the first person to pursue the prohibited concepts violation up to Commissioner Schwinn because of its defamation of white Americans throughout its 300+ pages. A petition circulated online called for the district to remove the novel from its curriculum because of racism, foul language, underage drinking, violence, drugs, prostitution, and alcohol. Union Grove Middle School Principal John Webb told parents they would no longer be teaching it. He said, "Our students have been studying the novel, which was included in our state-approved curriculum. A materials review team has recommended that the inclusion of the book be discontinued at this time in Blount County Schools." That review was conducted in accordance with Blount County Schools policy 4.403, according to the district. The book calls white Americans 'white demons'; because a white man throws a brick through the window of the laundromat on a young Chinese boy's first night in San Francisco, giving him a taste of the racism and xenophobia that his father and other Chinese immigrants have faced the whole time they've been there. I recommend that the book be pulled from school libraries and placed in public libraries due to Blount County's reasons.

Quotes from the book

"I stared at the brick as it slid across the clean, worn, wooden floor, and at the glass that scattered about my feet. Outside I could hear jeers and shouts. For one moment I glimpsed howling, sweating, red-and-white faces, distorted into hideous masks of hatred and cruelty, a sea of demon heads that bobbed restlessly outside our store. I could not understand the words they were growling out, but their intention was plain. They wanted to burn and loot and hurt. Looking into that huge mass of faces was like looking into the ugliest depths of the human soul."

"It was kind of scary. One day we were living in a law-abiding community and the next day the city and the community had both dissolved, with every person for himself. It struck me that Father and I had probably walked by this house, feeling as safe as we could feel in a demon street, many times, and now here we were hiding behind what was left of it, trying to keep from getting shot."

“He was my father and yet he was a stranger to me. I had never seen him. I thought to myself, How can we ever speak to one another? He’s as strange to me as a demon.” (meaning a white American)

“I don’t think the demons were necessarily bad for not wanting to help others. They might have been scared, or so shocked they could not really know how selfish they were being.”

Report from the County Mayor

Report of Director of Schools

Old Business

Budget Request #3&4

- Let’s walk through this request now that we have a description of these items.
- All of these line items are coded for the Central Office 7095, none are for a particular school because all schools have their own 7000 designation code.
- The first 8 are under the fund of Other Student Support.
- The next 7 are under the fund of Regular Instruction Program.
- The last one is under the fund of Operation of a Plant.
- Supplemental pay and benefits for a guidance counselor in the first 5 line items.
- Other contracted Services are for STARS counselors at Liberty Creek High School whose code is 7077 instead of 7095. However, all contracts are paid at the Central Office for STARS, hence the 7095 coding.
- Some schools needed updated security signage.
- The next item is the annual Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certification for SROs this next June 2023. This is just an estimation as was pointed out on 3 Oct due to the round number of \$85,000. I don’t know why we are funding it this early when it is over 8 months away and when it was first presented on 3 Oct would have been 9 months early.
- Some miscellaneous benefit accounting for 4 lines.
- Some estimated mileage not paid to SAFE Schools personnel since it is a credit- \$2000.
- Red Ribbon Week went off without a hitch this past week without this money- \$3275.27 because my grandsons told me the activities they were doing each day when I went to pick them up.
- Other Charges- SAFE School cell phone contract for 12 phones, SAFE Schools department copier contract, and Character Education curriculum for a state requirement
- Administration Equipment for Operation of a Plant- This was the line that received so much attention and was misrepresented as just Panic Buttons needed in the schools by some individuals, a selectively edited video, and social media. Panic buttons are in every school and have been since the inception of a public address intercom system. I don’t think anyone here went to school where one was not present except maybe Commissioner Hyde. Maybe they were using smoke signals and runners back then. A description for this was given and when I asked which school needed it was just given as a county-wide need. Remember this line item is coded 7095 for the central office. For the amount of this line item- \$174,200.00, the amount of these items cannot be very many when you research how much each of these items cost- radios, security cameras, laptops for the SROs, visitor management equipment, and an upgrade to the county-wide digital panic alarm system.

- The radio system has been in place that the BOE wants to upgrade their system to since 25 Feb 2019. What has taken so long? Why does it have to be now? Immediately? The BOE drag their feet for four years and they have to have it now? Del Phillips signed the document as a stake holder along with Sonny Weatherford. See the attached resolution.

- According to Ken Weidner the County EMA Director, the County installed approximately 227 new radios in buses in 2020, and 112 portable radios for every school on 17 Jun 2022. Every school got two portables on the new County Radio system, in addition to the SRO's having their own radios, who are also on the County Radio system.

Every school has their own frequency. There are twelve frequencies used across the county. The schools chose to continue to use their analog systems they have used for years. Panic Alarms originally were (and still are?) on a system called Varda. When a panic button in the office is pushed, a radio transmission automatically goes out to law enforcement. Countywide, the old equipment (analog) doesn't work on the new system (digital). This has been a known issue for several years.

STOP FOR KEN

For clarification: The school lock down alarms are in service and functioning, and they are broadcast inside of each building. The panic alarms are broadcast out to the county radio communications system.

It's very important to note that all of the old repeaters (analog systems) are **still up and running** as backups in all law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Whether the school system can still communicate with these active analog systems is the question.

If their panic buttons can still communicate with the backup analog systems still in use by all local Law Enforcement Agencies, then they are lying to the public about the panic alarms not working, because their Varda analog system can still transmit to law enforcement agencies who still have their analog systems running full time as backups.

If they can't actually transmit their current analog systems, then why did they disable their systems before they were ready to switch over to the new? Is this something they did to put our kids at risk? Is this something that was not properly coordinated with law enforcement agencies throughout the county?

County Radios

Began cutover (off of old system, on new)

EMS Aug 17, 2020

Portland PD Oct 8, 2020

Sheriff Dept. Oct 28, 2020

Hendersonville Fire Dec 1, 2020

All other agencies (Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), Highway Department, Volunteer Fire, etc.) were added in 2021. Local Education Agencies (LEA) were to switch over on 6/17/22. The process took about 12 months to implement.

So the bottom line is: Yes, all the panic buttons, alarms, radios work in the school system. This line item was either back up or for a particular school since it was coded for the Central Office as previously noted and was not disclosed by Katie Brown, SAFE Schools Director. The amount was too small since the entire project upgrade was \$9 million and other equipment such as laptops, security cameras, and visitor management equipment were on the line item. This issue was a mountain made out of a mole hill by ill-informed or malicious people. And a little knowledge is a dangerous thing as we were taught by Chicken Little. It is a shame there has to be such partisanship instead of working together.

September Budget Request #2

I went to the BOE to research Budget Requests #2 and #3&4 with the clerk, Rhonda Jernigan, who originated them thinking she should know all about the requests since she wrote them. I was quickly met by Amanda Brown and then Dr. Phillips and told that she did not know about the requests. She only types them up. I had to ask the department heads for that information and so we tried to arrange a meeting with Katie Brown. She had gone to the doctor sick and Dr. Phillips did not know when she would be back to school. We tried to meet all of the days until finally we were able to meet on 19 Oct. Scott Langford, Amanda Brown, Katie Brown, and Norma Dam were in attendance and I was told that Dr. Phillips was in another meeting. The social workers are not in SAFE Schools but under the Special Education Dept. STARS counselors are contracted under the SAFE Schools Act. I asked the BOE, Dr. Phillips, for the following so that we as a commission could make a determination as to the validity of these social workers and software. I asked 4 times from 19-27 Oct and they accomplished only one.

1. Scott Langford was supposed to give me the link to look at the software in question for the social workers.
2. Katie Brown was supposed to give me a link to the SAFE Schools survey so that I can see if it has changed from when I used to do it as a teacher.
3. With Special Education director Norma Dam, I wanted to meet one of the 8 crisis social workers and one of the regular social workers like they are hiring at RT Wright.
4. I would like to meet some of the STARS counselors also.

We need to have the transparency with the BOE so that we can inspect these continuing requests of the tax payer. Since these requests were not completed, Dr. Phillips requested that Budget Request #2 be withdrawn from tonight's meeting by email on 27 Oct.

New Business

1. Resolution

Two to choose from and Ben made points in his email about the versions: We can prepare either a long or short version into a resolution. There are pros and cons to including specific statutory language. If you just reference the statute, then if the state adds requirements those would automatically be included. However, if you reference the statute

without stating specific language you run the risk of the statute later being given a different code number.

2. The contract between Infinity Pipeline and SCBOE.

I am not sure that anyone is here that can answer these questions since Del Phillips informed me that no one will be here with the BOE meeting going simultaneously, but I would like them on the record and they may have to be moved to Old Business for the next meeting.

I would like to know what the completion date was supposed to be.

Is there a monetary penalty for going past that date?

Since the project is not complete, the sewage is being hauled away in tanker trucks. Who is paying for this bill?

The land that was condemned, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre to $2\frac{1}{2}$ or more for others, for the sewer line easement needs to be given back to home owners instead of making it a greenway.

Lastly, is there a projected completion date for the sewer?

I think General Operations may need to reach out to WHUD for the engineering plans, unless you think that is something the SCBOE can address.