



THE CHAIR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2023

Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education



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Dear MSCS Supporter,

"The Chair's Report" is my inaugural newsletter as Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education chair. This monthly e-newsletter will provide activity highlights for the month, give updates on key issues facing the school district, and share the board's position with you.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

If you have been following the search for a new superintendent, you know the board has selected three finalists. During a Special Call Meeting December 19, we announced and the board voted and approved the following candidates to move to the next level in the interview process:

- **Yolonda C. Brown**, Chief Academic Officer, Atlanta Public Schools
- **Marie Feagins**, EdD, Chief of High Schools and Leadership, Detroit Public Schools Community District
- **Cheryl Proctor**, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction & School Communities, Portland Public Schools

The School Board and the community both selected the same finalists, based on tallying of the rubrics. The search firm Hazard, Young, Alteia & Associates is working with the board on this process. The community will have an opportunity to meet each candidate in January. Look for a schedule on the board's new social media platforms.



Memphis-Shelby County Schools

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MEMPHIS
SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

VOUCHERS

The Memphis-Shelby County Board of Education aims to provide the best education to students from all walks of life who attend our schools. We are vehemently opposed to the state of Tennessee's school voucher program and the proposed expansion.

Statistics show school vouchers would move much-needed financial resources from public schools to private schools. We need those public resources for those students who must attend public schools. Research has not shown that vouchers improve student academic performance; therefore, diverting public funding from public schools is not in the best interest of all Tennessee students.

We respectfully asked Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee State Legislature to reconsider this voucher expansion program.

A-F GRADING

This week, the State of Tennessee announced grades for public schools. In 2016, T.C.A. § 49-1-228 was established and required the Tennessee Department of Education to develop a school letter grading system to provide parents and families with a rating system for school performance. This new law was implemented for the first time this year. Based on this new system, more than 40% of our schools will be graded as D and F schools. The principals, teachers and faculty are working hard every day to educate our students. As a former educator, these are not the results we expect to see for the district, and we are committed to making improvements at each of these schools.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING




If you've visited some of our older schools, you know that MSCS needs financial support for infrastructure needs. The district has approximately \$500 million in deferred maintenance needs. Interim Superintendent Toni Williams and her team convened a group of community and business leaders, educators, and city and county employees to review MSCS infrastructure challenges and develop a plan for state-of-the-art facilities for students. The proposed planning phases will:

- Involve potentially 50 schools and administrative buildings with renovations, reuse and mixed-use opportunities, and consolidations in five years
- Pursue enhanced funding strategies with government
- Impact 110 schools in 10 years with renovations, reuse and mixed-use opportunities

District subcommittees are taking part in meetings now to discuss the proposed plan and provide recommendations. At the end of the process, the steering committee will present its infrastructure plan to the Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education for consideration.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education wants to stay connected to you. We have created social media platforms for you to follow the work of your school board directly. Follow us on:

	Facebook	mcsk12board
	Instagram	mcsk12board
	Twitter/X	mcsk12board

Your school board members look forward to connecting with you.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we close the door on 2023, I want to thank you for supporting Memphis-Shelby County Schools. We are committed to working every day to provide the best education to the students we serve. We have some work to do, and we are committed to getting it done. I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Blessed New Year.

Althea Greene,
Chair, Memphis-Shelby County
Schools Board of Education