



THE CHAIR'S REPORT

JANUARY 2025

Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education



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Message from Chair Dorse Coleman

Dear MSCS Supporter,

Welcome to the latest edition of "The Chair's Report." This monthly e-newsletter provides activity highlights, updates key issues facing the school district, and shares the Board's position with you.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT MSCS | WELCOME INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT RODERICK RICHMOND, EDD

During a special call meeting earlier this month, the Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education made a difficult but necessary decision to end the employment contract with Dr. Marie Feagins. We made this decision based on differences in leadership we could not overcome.

The Board also voted to appoint Roderick Richmond, EdD, as interim superintendent. Dr. Richmond is a seasoned educator. He has been in education for over 30 years, serving as a Chief Academic Officer, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of School Operations, Principal, Assistant Principal, teacher, and, most recently, Transformation Officer. His extensive background and proven commitment to education make him well-equipped to guide our district during this transition.

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Memphis-Shelby County Schools

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MEMPHIS
SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Selecting Dr. Richmond as our interim superintendent is a step in the right direction. We know he is up for the task and loves working for MSCS. We look forward to working with him to continue moving this district forward.

Transitions in leadership can bring uncertainty, but they also bring new opportunities for growth and improvement. We are committed to working collaboratively with the interim superintendent to ensure a smooth transition, clear priorities, and an unwavering focus on student success.

To our parents and community members, we ask for



Dr. Roderick Richmond, EdD

your patience as we work diligently to determine the next steps in our superintendent selection process. Please know our decision reflects this Board's commitment to doing what is best for our students.

If you have questions or concerns, I invite you to contact me. I look forward to responding to you promptly. You can email me at DORSECOLEMANJ@scsk12.org, and either I or one of my colleagues will respond.

DISTRICT 2 HIGHLIGHTS NATALIE MCKINNEY, BOARD MEMBER

During the Fall 2024 semester, Board Member Natalie McKinney spent time visiting schools and talking to school leaders, teachers, students, and parents as she surveyed the District 2 landscape. During these visits, she learned that every stakeholder is committed to ensuring every student has a learning environment that is safe, well-maintained, and welcoming. McKinney also engaged in various events, including Hispanic Heritage Month events, chess tournaments, and more. She surveyed the "wants and needs" of school leaders and engaged students, teachers, parents, and community stakeholders interested in making our students' educational experience state-of-the-art and world-class. Here's some of what she learned:

- Students are seeking solutions to extra-curricular costs and funding disparities.
- Teachers feel as though their teaching environment varies depending on the building. They also have funding concerns, related to equipment and supplies needed to provide the best possible educational experience and some concerns about curriculum and instruction. However, teachers are generally enjoying the experience.
- Principals from various schools have shared their wants and needs, including upgrades to school facilities, incentives for students and teachers, and support for classroom instruction.
- Parents have some concerns about district communications and facilities, and they have offered solutions.
- Immigrant parent groups want improved access to interpretation service, opportunities, and ways for the District to connect with them.



Board Member Natalie McKinney with students at Kingsbury Middle School for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Board Member McKinney will conduct monthly Board Office Hours throughout District 2 for school leaders, parents, students, and teachers, providing a space to engage and discuss issues, concerns, and solutions.

| Date & Time | School | Group |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| TBD | Vollintine Elementary | School Leaders |
| Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. | Treadwell Elementary and Middle | Parents |
| Thursday, Feb. 20, TBD | Douglass K-8 and High | Students |
| Thursday, Feb. 27, TBD | Craigmont Middle and High | Teachers |

DISTRICT 3 HIGHLIGHTS

STEPHANIE LOVE, BOARD VICE CHAIR

Raleigh-Egypt High School Student Cornelius Perry's

Tragic Death: Earlier this month, Raleigh-Egypt High School 10th grader Cornelius Perry collapsed during track practice and died. Cornelius was an exceptional student with a 3.2 GPA, and he was crowned football homecoming prince for his 10th-grade class. Cornelius was both a football and baseball player and wanted to do track. We send our deepest condolences to Cornelius' family, friends, classmates, and those who love him dearly during this difficult time.

Grove Hero: During our January Board Business Meeting, the MSCS Board recognized Mario Bradley, also known as Grove Hero, for his incredible work in his Ridge Grove neighborhood in Frayer. [Click here to watch the full story from FOX13 Memphis.](#)




E.E. Jeter K-8 School Visit: This month, Board Vice Chair Love stopped by E. E. Jeter K-8 School and enjoyed a delicious lunch, prepared by Memphis-Shelby County Schools Nutrition Services, led by Shalissia Smith.



Board Vice Chair Stephanie Love with E.E. Jeter staff.

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 | mscsc12board |
|  | Instagram | mscsc12board |
|  | Twitter/X | mscsc12board |

Your school board members look forward to connecting with you.

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- February 13 (4-7 p.m.)

Presidents Day

- February 17 (Students Out)

February Board Work Session

- February 18

February Board Business Meeting

- February 25

All Board Business Meetings and Work Sessions can be joined in person, viewed live online and on C19TV, or heard on 88.5FM.

ON A FINAL NOTE

As we set a path forward with new District leadership, we thank our educators and staff for being patient and working diligently as we continuously strive to ensure our students receive the best education. We look forward to working with our interim superintendent, and we appreciate your continuous support in Memphis-Shelby County Schools.

Joyce Dorse Coleman,
Chair, Memphis-Shelby County Schools
Board of Education