



Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6:00 PM

Administrative Support Center, Tennessee Room (3rd Floor)
400 Clinchfield Street
Kingsport, TN 37660 Phone: (423) 378-2102

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance (Eliam Mingo/Briggs Waycaster)
 - 1.2. Additions to and/or Acceptance of the Agenda (Mrs. Melissa Woods)
2. **RECOGNITIONS**
 - 2.1. Dobyys-Bennett High School All-State Band, Choir, and Orchestra Members (Mrs. Melissa Woods)
 - 2.2. Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT)- Elizabethton Recognition of Kingsport City Schools as the Gold Level Dual Enrollment Partner for Spring 2025 (Dr. Richard Church)
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Mrs. Melissa Woods)
4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - 4.1. Personnel Considerations (Mrs. Jennifer Guthrie)
 - 4.2. Approval of Minutes - March 11, 2025 BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (Mrs. Melissa Woods)
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - 5.1. Approval to Adopt Science Textbooks/Resources Recommendation (Dr. Brian Cinnamon)
6. **TIME AND DATES OF MEETINGS**
 - 6.1. April 22, 2025 - BOE Special Called Meeting (6:00 PM)
 - 6.2. April 22, 2025 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM - Immediately Following Special Called Meeting)
 - 6.3. May 13, 2025 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)
 - 6.4. June 10, 2025 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025

The Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting was held on March 11, 2025, in the Administrative Support Center, Tennessee Room (3rd Floor) at 6:00 PM. The following Board of Education members were in attendance.

Dr. Brandon Fletcher (Vice President):	Present
Todd Golden:	Present
Jamie Jackson:	Present
Dr. Phillip Marshall:	Present
Melissa Woods (President):	Present

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Melissa Woods, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance (Brayden Austin)

D-B EXCEL 9th grader Brayden Austin led the Board of Education and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Additions to and/or Acceptance of the Agenda (Mrs. Melissa Woods)

A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Dr. Brandon Fletcher (Vice President) to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

2. RECOGNITIONS

2.1. National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists (Dr. Phillip Marshall)

Dr. Phillip Marshall recognized Dobyons-Bennett High School seniors Liam Klug and Claire Li for advancing to Finalist standing in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. Their remarkable achievements in the classroom, commitment to co-curricular activities, and meaningful contributions to the community set them apart. The program is designed to identify and honor the top high school students in the United States. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. More than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Mrs. Melissa Woods)

Mrs. Chrissy Brown, parent and community member, expressed support of a resolution affirming the district's intent to participate in the Education Freedom Act of 2025 relative to teacher bonuses under consideration by the Board.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. Personnel Considerations (Mrs. Jennifer Guthrie)

4.2. Approval of Minutes (Mrs. Melissa Woods)

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

5.1. Approval to Purchase Dell Chromebooks (Mr. Andy Arnold/Mr. David Frye)

Andy Arnold, Chief Technology Officer, and David Frye, Chief Finance Officer, presented a recommendation to purchase 1,300 Dell Chromebook and Google Chrome licenses from Dell Marketing L.P. for 7th and 9th grade students, utilizing the Wilson County Schools Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. The Dell Chromebook 312s are \$275.62 each and the Google Chrome licenses are \$32.07 each, for a total cost of \$399,997.00. Funding for the purchase will be from School General Purpose Funds.

A motion was made by Dr. Phillip Marshall and seconded by Dr. Brandon Fletcher (Vice President) to utilize the Wilson County Schools Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of 1,300 Dell Chromebooks and Google Chrome licenses from Dell Marketing L.P. (Contract C000000381302) for a total cost of \$399,997.00. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.2. Approval of Budget Amendment #4 (Mr. David Frye)

Mr. Frye presented Budget Amendment #4 for Board consideration. The Budget Amendment included four General Purpose School Funds and three General Project Fund items as follows:

General Purpose School Funds

Item 1: Technology Transfer - This year and in future years KCS will only be replacing two grade levels of student devices (Chromebooks), which will free up funds in the Technology Instructional Equipment account. It was recommended that \$75,000 be transferred from Technology, Instructional Equipment account to the Technology, Maintenance Fee account (\$50,000) and to the Technology Other Equipment account (\$25,000).

Item 2: Jefferson Playground - The addition of two new pieces of equipment to the playground costs a total of \$42,804, with \$20,000 of this cost being provided by the General Purpose School Fund Capital Improvement Funds. The balance of the improvement cost will be funded by a donation from the Jefferson PTA. It was recommended that the estimated revenue for Other Local Revenue and the appropriation for Jefferson Capital Outlay be increased by \$22,804.

Item 3: Maintenance Expenses - The maintenance department has experienced some unexpected expenses requiring additional funding. These expenses have been required by the City's building insurance carrier and are related to water leaks and damage from the sprinkler system at the former Sullivan North building. The insurance company required the space to be heated to prevent the water from freezing, as well as installing fire extinguishers in all the computer/network closets. It was recommended that

\$38,700 be transferred from the Superintendent, Other Contracted Services to Maintenance, Repair of Buildings account.

Item 4: Fund Balance Appropriation - Four projects that require funding will need to come from the General Purpose School Fund Unreserved Fund Balance account. The estimated cost of the projects was \$1,074,400. It was recommended that the estimated revenue for Fund Balance Appropriations and the appropriation for Fund Transfer be increased by \$1,074,400.

General Project Fund:

- Robinson Gym Floors - It was recommended that the estimated revenue for transfers from the General Purpose School Fund and the appropriation Architect Fees and Construction Costs be established in the amount of \$158,800.

- Parking Lot Improvements at Jackson Elementary School and Palmer Center - It was recommended that the estimated revenue for Transfers from the General Purpose School Fund and the appropriation Architect Fees and Construction Costs be established in the amount of \$676,600.

- Washington HVAC Replacement - It was recommended that the estimated revenue for transfers from the General Purpose School Fund and the appropriation Architect Fees established in the amount of \$240,000.

A motion was made by Jamie Jackson and seconded by Dr. Brandon Fletcher (Vice President) to approve Budget Amendment #4 as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.3. Approval of Resolution Affirming Intention to Participate in the Education Freedom Act of 2025 Relative to Bonuses for Teachers (Dr. Andy True)

Dr. True, Assistant Superintendent - Administration, presented a resolution to the Board related to affirming Kingsport City Schools participation in the Education Freedom Act of 2025 relative to bonuses for teachers. Per Section Four of the recently passed law, local Boards of Education are required to affirm intention to participate in a resolution in order to receive state funds to issue these bonuses. The bill provides one-time bonuses of no less than \$2,000 to public school teachers in Tennessee. Though affirming participation in the teacher bonus portion of the Act, the proposed resolution also reiterates the Board's continued unanimous opposition to the overall bill and voucher legislation.

Several Board members mentioned that vouchers started being discussed years ago, and they continue to oppose them. The Board is committed to educating, supporting and advocating for all KCS students.

A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Dr. Phillip Marshall to approve a resolution affirming intention to participate in the Education Freedom Act of 2025 relative to bonuses for teachers. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

6. TIME AND DATES OF MEETINGS

Mrs. Woods announced the Board of Education would not have a work session in March.

6.1. April 8, 2025 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

6.2. April 22, 2025 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM)

6.3. May 13, 2025 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

6.4. June 10, 2025 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Woods adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Mrs. Melissa Woods, Board President

Vivian L. Altizer, Board Secretary



FROM: Dr. Brian Cinnamon
DATE: April 8, 2025
RE: Approval of Science Textbook/Resource Recommendations

In December, the process of determining Science resources that are best aligned with the KCS vertical Science vision began with the teacher adoption team. The team has worked to develop an instructional vision, review rubrics, and conduct thorough reviews of the approved adoption materials for Science. The following teachers/administrators/instructional support staff were nominated and invited to serve on the textbook/resource selecting committees (facilitated by Dr. Brian Cinnamon, Dr. Holly Flora, and Marsha Buck):

Ashton Davis	Karen Kitzmiller
Amanda Dunham	Kaley Silvers
Andrea Fissel	Laura Bortz
Addison Hale	Luke Holt
Amy Nida	Lacey Wernke
Ashley Peer	Mary Hensley
Alison Sigmon	Missy Carter-Hyatt
Andrew Walters	Mary Ellen Smith
Cheree Osborne	Mitzi Hammond
Charlene Mcneill	Molly Jones
Carrie Murray	Megan Leonard
Charity Shepherd	Melissa Rivers
Donnia Tillson	Rhonda Lackey
Evie Lafollette	Shelby Burleson Poisal
Eva Pearson	Sunshine Light
Emily Quillen	Shasta Perhne
Elizabeth Ward	Sarah Pike
Janet Clark	Sarah Sanders
Jessica Chase	Sarah Vaughan
Jesse McCormick	Tonja Francis
Jason Joyner	Wendy Jones Harrison
Kathryn Bennett	Whitney Lucas

The purpose of the committee is to recommend textbooks and instructional materials for adoption to the KCS Board of Education for approval. While serving on this committee, members adhered to the following:

- Subscribe to the following oath (from TCA 49-6-2201(f)):



appointment. Committees shall be composed by grade or groups of grades arranged so that a committee may consider an entire series of books if it should so desire; provided, that in all cases, the teachers and supervisors appointed to the committees shall be licensed to teach in the state with endorsements in the subject matter or grade level for which textbooks or instructional materials are being reviewed.

- Develop and commit to the vertical Science vision for instruction
- Use a rubric to guide in the selection of textbooks aligned with vertical Science vision and key practices
- Deep scrutiny and evaluation of textbooks and materials to ensure alignment with standards and KCS instructional vision
- Serve as a liaison to teachers in the building

Timeline:

- December 2024
 - An initial orientation meeting was held to establish an oath of commitment to the process and develop the next steps for the process
 - Began the process of developing a vision for science instruction in KCS
- January 2025
 - Developed consensus for the development of a review of the rubric to be used for the review of approved textbooks and materials
 - Began formal reviews of approval materials using vision-based rubric
- February 2025
 - Hosted a materials caravan for publishers to provide demonstrations with the teacher team and for the team to ask questions
 - Continued reviews of approved materials
- March 2025
 - Finalized reviews and held consensus meetings for each grade band to reach a consensus on the final recommendations to be presented for approval
 - Made resources available to all science teachers in KCS for review
 - Made resources available for public review
- April 2025
 - Present recommendations for adoption to KCS Board of Education for approval
 - Plan for purchasing based on approvals

Recommendations:

- K-5 grade band: Adopt McGraw Hill Tennessee Science digital and print bundle
6-8 grade band: No adoption
9-12 grade band: Adopt SAAVAS Levine Biology for use in Biology courses

Report of Local Adoption of Textbooks*

This form remains in the office of the Local Director of Schools for the 6 year Adoption Period

Report for schools of ^{Kingsport} _____ County, City, or Special District.

For the School Year 2025-26

Subject: Science Textbook Adoption

Recommendation of Local Textbook Selecting Committee

We, the duly appointed members of the Local Textbook Selecting Committee for the Subject of Science, recommend that the ^{Kingsport} _____ (County or City) Board of Education adopt, from the State Approved List, the following textbooks to be used in the public schools of ^{Kingsport City} _____ (County or City), as approved by the law and contract:

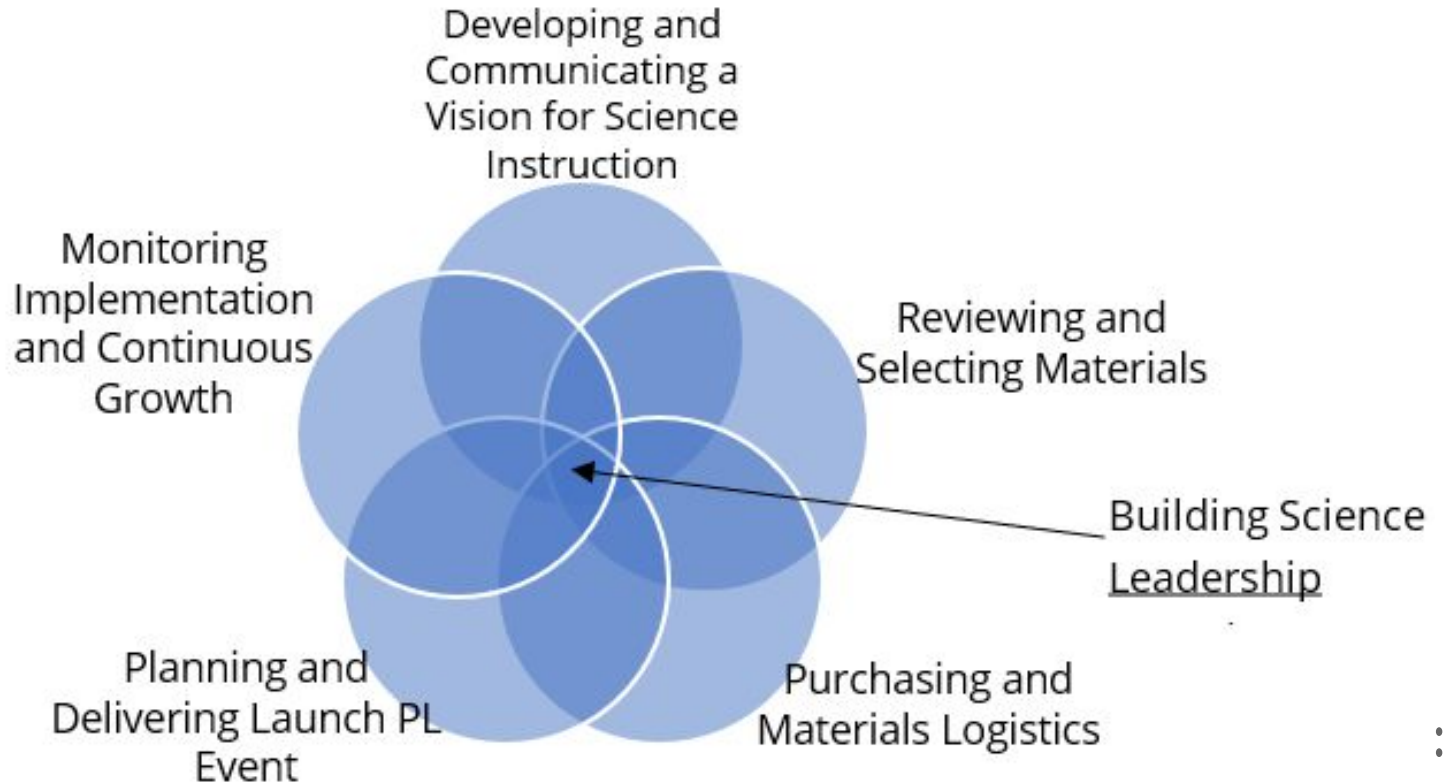
State Approved	Waiver Approved	Technology Dependent	Grade	Author	Title	Company
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	K-5	McGraw Hill	Tennessee Science	McGraw-Hill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9-12	SAAVAS	Miller & Levine Biology	SAAVAS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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We hereby certify that we have returned to the office of the superintendent all the samples of textbooks submitted to us. Signatures of members of the Local Selecting Committee for this subject:

Dr. Brian Cinnamon (on behalf of committee)

1 _____

Adoption Process



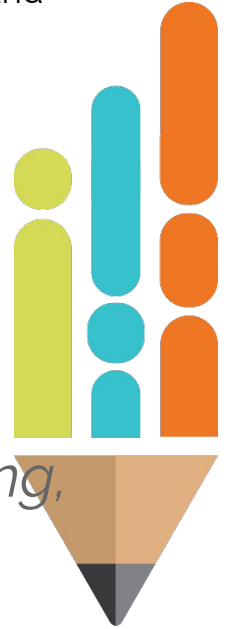
Vision Preparation from December

Write your thoughts independently initially.

- Take 10-15 minutes to think and reflect on the vision questions regarding teachers and students and classroom culture.
- Begin to note on post-its your statements from your reflections
- Consider the features of classroom culture document in your reflection around culture

Consider your ideal science classroom:

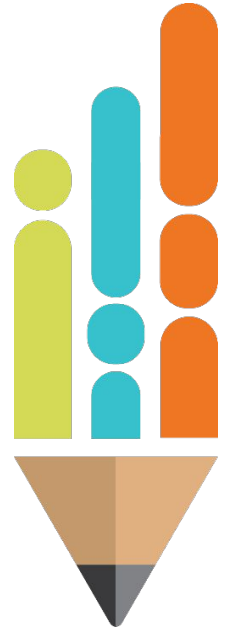
- *What do you hear **students saying**? See **students doing**?*
- *What do you hear **teacher saying**? See **teacher doing**?*
- *When you think about effective science teaching and learning, what elements are present in the classroom **culture**?*



Develop a Consensus Chart

Effective Science Teaching and Learning	
<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Students</u>
<u>Classroom Culture</u>	

- Round-robin share out.
 - Talk, listen, seek clarification, and look for patterns.
 - Add consensus ideas to chart.
 - **What patterns and common ideas emerged in your group?**



Teacher Roles and Actions

Facilitation and Guiding: Teachers are essential facilitators of learning. They:

- Pose **probing** and intentional questions.
- Guide discussions to encourage meaningful **student discourse**.
- Use modeling to demonstrate **scientific thinking**.
- Teachers create real-world learning opportunities that spark curiosity and exploration, encouraging students to engage with **scientific phenomena**.
- Emphasizing the use of **evidence** to justify claims helps students refine their ideas and develop robust scientific explanations.

Preparedness and adaptability are key. Teachers leverage assessments and professional development to enhance their teaching practices.





Student Roles and Actions

Inquiry and Curiosity: Students actively engage by:

- Asking questions and testing **hypotheses**.
- **Designing and conducting investigations**.
- Analyzing and interpreting **data**.
- **Discuss** ideas and challenge each other's **thinking**.
- Create models and communicate findings **effectively**.

Students participate in hands-on experiments and problem-solving activities, drawing and refining scientific models to deepen their understanding. Students demonstrate autonomy and accountability in their work, taking responsibility for their progress and outcomes.

Ideal Classroom Culture



Curiosity and Risk-Taking: A culture that values curiosity and experimentation, where mistakes are viewed as **learning opportunities**.

- Respect, equity, and shared learning are central to fostering a supportive environment.
- Encouraging a growth mindset, both students and teachers take accountability for their actions and learning processes, promoting **continuous improvement**.
- Connecting science learning to **real-world applications** ensures that lessons are meaningful and engaging.
- Emphasizing inquiry-based learning and student-driven exploration creates a dynamic and engaging classroom environment.



Summary of Trends Across Grade Bands

K-2: Focus on curiosity, foundational skills (observation, recording), and respectful, exploratory classroom culture.

3-5: Emphasis on activating prior knowledge, building models, and fostering collaboration and ownership of learning.

6-8: Application of scientific thinking through modeling, data analysis, and designing experiments, alongside a culture of inclusivity and curiosity.

9-12: Deep exploration of concepts, innovation, and real-world connections, with students taking significant ownership of learning.

Kingsport City Schools Vertical Science Collective Commitments

Kingsport City Schools envisions a vertical science education experience that inspires curiosity, fosters critical thinking, and cultivates a lifelong passion for scientific discovery in every student. Through collaborative and hands-on learning, our science classrooms empower students to explore the natural world, connect knowledge to real-world applications, and develop as informed, innovative problem-solvers.

Our educators serve as knowledgeable facilitators, guiding meaningful inquiry, promoting evidence-based reasoning, and modeling scientific thinking. Through intentional and phenomenon-based instruction, they create inclusive and engaging learning environments that challenge students to ask questions, analyze data, and communicate findings effectively.

We commit to cultivating a classroom culture that encourages collaboration, risk-taking, and perseverance. We will foster an atmosphere where all learners feel empowered to take ownership of their learning and contribute to a community of shared discovery. We aspire to prepare students to thrive in a dynamic world, equipped with the scientific literacy and critical skills needed to lead, innovate, and solve the challenges of tomorrow.