



Observer Corps Report

Observer: Lisa Plawchan

Meeting Observed: Board of Education Regular Session

Meeting Date: June 4, 2026

[Agenda](#)

[Video Recording](#)

Three Main Observations:

1. Ms. Templeton's resolution requesting the TN General Assembly amend the Age Appropriate Materials Act passed in a 5-4 vote. It specifically asks to allow for contextual review of entire books, return to grade-band standards, and extend the review window from 60 to 90 days. The Board will continue discussing policy changes that can be implemented under the current law at its next Policy Review meeting, July 22.

2. Although Ms. Bike's resolution recommending a student-centered approach to technology use in schools did not pass, it sparked a timely discussion. The proposed resolution brought numerous parents forward to share concerns, students' stories and ideas for how technology should be used in schools. Input from this discussion will help shape a technology policy that will be developed prior to the start of the new school year in August.

3. The community packed the room, with twenty-four (24) people speaking during public forum. While perspectives and topics varied, a consistent theme emerged throughout the evening: a strong call for greater transparency and accountability. From how decisions are made to how information is communicated with the public, speakers repeatedly emphasized the need for clearer processes and meaningful community engagement both of which would increase public trust.

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		Began promptly at 5 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
All members present?	X		
Members attentive?	X		
Did members come prepared to discuss	X		

agenda items?			
Agenda posted 72 hours prior to meeting?	X		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	X		
Adequate opportunity given for public input?	X		24 people spoke at the meeting
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?	X		
Was background information available to the public?	X		The public didn't have access to the edited version of 8I - Ms. Templeton's resolution
Facilities adequate (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers, audible, ADA accessible)?		X	Several people had to sit in the overflow room and watch from the TV there

Were there any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? View the League's [National](#), [State](#), and [LWVKKC](#) policy positions.

LWVKKC Policy Positions: Childcare, Land Use, Health, Homeless/Mentally Ill Persons, Urban Forestry, Use of School Facilities by Communities, Teacher Recruitment & Retention

League Position	Issue
Support	Access to books

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?

Continue to share ideas with school board members and staff on possible policy changes that can be implemented related to the AAMA that would ensure compliance with the law while maintaining book access.

Other notes/concerns?

The meeting moved quickly until discussion began at Agenda item 8H on the approach to technology device usage. Five (5) members of the community spoke on this item, all sharing varying ideas of how they'd like to see screen time limited in the classrooms, particularly in grades K-5. Several forum speakers requested to cut student access to YouTube and games, called for greater transparency in screen time usage with a possible

technology usage audit, remove the web browser function in elementary school Chromebooks, and greater oversight of how technology is used in classrooms.

The board's discussion followed public forum on Agenda Item 8H, beginning with Ms. Bike who shared that the resolution brings the conversation to the board now and would help in developing the policy. Some initial ideas proposed based on community input:

- Form a committee that would meet quarterly with the launch in Spring 2027
- Provide an opt-out provision to online testing and other technology uses
- K-5 non-digital
- Put a broad policy in place now and allow the committee to propose details to add in the months ahead

Mr. Triplett

Suggested finding low hanging fruit that could be implemented before the school year begins in August

Dr. Rysewyk

Concerned about teacher planning that will need to be done before school begins. Any significant changes in technology policies could impact their plans. He likes the committee process and believes these decisions happen better with community input.

Ms. Fontenot-Ridley

Asked that teachers be given an opportunity to weigh in. Proposed a survey where they could speak freely

Ms. Templeton

The Resolution gives a template for the rubric.

Ms. Kristy

New board members should have a say

Motion failed - 4 yes & 3 no; 2 pass

Yes	No	Pass
Templeton	Morgan	Butler
Fontenot-Ridley	Triplett	Wright
Bike	Kristy	
Henderson		

Agenda Item AI - Ms. Templeton's resolution to asking the TN General Assembly to amend the Age Appropriate Materials Act to allow for full contextual review based on historical significance, literary merit, educational purpose, religious significance, and overall effect; extend the evaluation period from 60-90 days, and evaluate books based on grade levels.

Ten (10) individuals spoke on this agenda item. Not everyone addressed whether they supported or opposed Ms. Templeton's proposed resolution. Seven (7) spoke in favor of the AAMA and removal of books from KCS shelves. There was one person who spoke against *Roots* being reinstated. There were three (3) people who spoke in support of access to books and a broad interpretation of the law with comments centered on trusting librarians, questioning the subjective interpretation of the law, and calling for all 123 books remaining off the shelves to be reconsidered.

One person was escorted out by security after his remarks. It is not clear why. His comments were his right to free speech under the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Noted: Several people from both sides spoke about the need for greater transparency and accountability.

Board discussion followed after public forum.

Mr. Triplett

Supports the AAMA and is concerned about this watering down the law

Ms. Bike

Appreciated the edits to section 2 after the work session discussion.

Ms. Fontenot-Ridley

Some school students don't have access to other libraries or bookstores beyond their school libraries. We shouldn't remove any books from any library. Give parents the responsibility for restricting access to books for their kids.

Rev. Butler

Appreciated the changes made after Monday's session, especially section 2 which gives the board more time to evaluate books. Should be sent to the TSBA so it can be considered across the state because it's a state law. Asking legislators to take a look at the law, not do away with the law. The policy also needs to be reviewed to allow for board input. Process should be transparent and always available.

Ms. Henderson

Agrees with parts of the proposed resolution and the law. Law was misinterpreted in regards to *Roots*. Concerned the resolution will water down the law. Thinks it should be considered when discussing Legislative Priorities.

Ms. Kristy

Materials should be age-appropriate. Likes the grade-band distinction in the resolution. Questioned the interpretation of the AAMA. Not convinced KCS is in compliance with the current AAMA in putting *Roots* back on the shelf. Policy needs to be addressed too.

Ms. Morgan

Parents should trust decisions being made by school librarians and not need to monitor titles on the shelf constantly. Need to work on the policy and work within the boundaries of the law. Increase transparency.

Motion passed: 5-4

YES	NO
Butler	Morgan
Templeton	Henderson
Fontenot Ridley	Triplett
Bike	Wright
Kristy	

Agenda Item 8J - Ms. Bike called for the reinstatement of all 123 books that had been removed at the age and grade appropriate levels until the books can be reviewed under the new policy.

Ms. Bike

Diverse county with diverse opinions. These books should be reviewed under the new policy. If the amended policy allows for the board to weigh in on the decision, then the already removed books should be reviewed.

Ms. Templeton

Asked where the removed books are currently. Several staff looked at each other, appearing unsure how to respond. Ultimately, Ms. Lautner shared that the removed books are sequestered in a locked space at each school. KCS still has the books. They aren't in circulation.

Motion Failed - 1-5 with 2 pass (Ms. Fontenot-Ridley was not present for the vote)

YES	NO	PASS
Bike	Morgan	Butler
	Henderson	Templeton
	Triplett	
	Wright	
	Kristy	

Public Forum

Nine (9) people spoke during public forum on a variety of subjects with a majority expressing concern little improvements in Special Education.

VS

Requested graduation ceremonies be returned to indoor facilities. Asked for trades education to be available in all KCS high schools and a return to night school options.

BC

Parent advocate for students with disabilities called for accurate, consistent information related to disability services.

CC

Middle schooler with severe autism shared how son was restrained 230 times by KCS employees. Law judge ruled that KCS failed to address student's disability needs under Section 504. Requests for disability services be given without parents needing to pursue legal avenues. Nothing has changed after the Special Education Task Force was created.

CB

Addressed bullying policy and questioned why a school administrator isn't held accountable for bullying her son.

GG

Family whose child was lost on a KCS field trip 50 years ago wants a formal apology.

AR

Calls for action and accountability related to SPED resolution passed 3 years ago.

RF

Homeschooled parent who asks that his kids are able to participate in school club sports.

CP

Calls for consistency to SPED processes. The SPED task force has met for 3 years with no change.

JZ

Asks for greater transparency and accountability related to discipline data. Students with disabilities account for nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of all disciplinary actions.