



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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Alan Coverstone appointed to oversee charter schools

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 7, 2009) – Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register has appointed former School Board Representative Alan Coverstone to serve as the district’s Executive Director of Charter Schools and Private Schools. Coverstone begins work July 20.

“I’ve worked with Alan for many months, now,” said Register, “and I’ve quickly realized not only his professional experience and expertise, but also his unwavering passion for education. His work in the private school sector brings great perspective and knowledge to this district. We are very pleased to have him take on this new leadership position and feel certain that under his guidance we will be able to offer our students many excellent, new learning opportunities.”

This new position was created in anticipation of a significant increase in the number of new charter school applications after recently passed state legislation. Coverstone, who announced his resignation from the Metro Nashville Board of Education June 29 and previously served as the Academic Dean at Montgomery Bell Academy, will manage the charter school application process, oversee regulatory requirements for compliance, and act as liaison between charter schools, private schools and MNPS.

“My goal is, and always has been, supporting our educational systems, both private and public,” said Coverstone. “Serving the people of District 9 and all of Davidson County in this capacity has been one of the singular honors of my life, and I hope to continue working to create the best possible educational opportunities for every child in this school district.”

In recent years, MNPS has seen a significant increase in interest surrounding charter schools. During the 2008-2009 school year, the district had three charter schools – KIPP Academy, Lead Academy, and Smithson-Craighead Academy. In the fall of 2009, two new charter schools will also open, Nashville Global Academy and Smithson-Craighead Middle School. Due to the growing interest in charter schools and other specialty school settings, MNPS opened an Office of School Options during the 2008-2009 school year. This spring, as state lawmakers worked to pass new charter school legislation, MNPS felt it was necessary to expand this office and created the position of Executive Director of Charter Schools and Private Schools. The job was posted days after state legislators passed the new charter school bill.

About Alan Coverstone

Alan Coverstone served 14 years as the Academic Dean for Montgomery Bell Academy, a prestigious private school in Nashville. In August 2008, he was elected to represent District 9 on the Metro Nashville Board of Education, filling the seat vacated by former Board Chair Marsha Warden. As District 9 Representative, Coverstone primarily served families in the Hillwood area. During his time with the school board, Coverstone also led a study group that examined ways to improve Davidson County's charter school program.

About the New Legislation

In June 2009, the Tennessee State Legislature passed new legislation to expand the definition of chartering authority to include the state board of education, to open enrollment so that more students are eligible to attend, and to increase caps on the number of charter schools statewide. This bill was signed into law by Governor Phil Bredesen, June 29, 2009.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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