

Education Committee Minutes
December 4, 2012

Attending: Mark Littleton
Nancy Wentz
Mike Singletary
Julia Craze
Valerie Millsaps

Guests: Dr. James McIntyre, Superintendent of Knox County Schools
Mike Reynolds, Principal of Farragut High School
Debbie Adorante, Assistant Principal of Farragut Intermediate
Karen Carson, Member Knox County School Board

Press: Sherri Gardner Howell
Alan Sloan

Mr. Littleton called the meeting to order and introduced members and guests. He requested that, due to time constraints, we table committee business and provide time for Dr. McIntyre and Mrs. Carson to address the committee items of concern.

Mr. Littleton stated that there were three items for which the committee would like clarification and / or additional information. The first item was the issue with NCLB transfers and funding for these students. The second item was concerning the seemingly inequitable school funding and the third item was the lack of technology in the Farragut Schools.

Dr. McIntyre provided specific details regarding NCLB transfers and referenced how federally funded mandates and regulations dictate how and where monies could be used. He stated that this should no longer be a concern since the laws have changed and school systems are not required to provide transfers for these students.

Both Dr. McIntyre and Mrs. Carson provided information that explained school funding and why urban schools appear to have greater funding than suburban schools. Most of the additional funding for urban schools comes from federal grants for academic programs that address the needs of students in impoverished areas. Many times the funding is based on the percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced meals. There are other factors in the funding formula and it is a very complex process.

Dr. McIntyre stated that the state has mandated electronic testing for students. The KCS Board is aware that the majority of our schools do not have the technology to accomplish this and they do not see how this can be resolved in the near future. Even if schools had access to a sufficient number of computers, most of the buildings do not have wireless capability.

The meeting was adjourned due to time restrictions but we would have liked to continue the dialogue.

