



Farragut/Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee Meeting

January 8, 2013

4:00 PM

Town Hall Main Floor, Board Room

Meeting Agenda

1. Call To Order (Chairman)
2. Approval Of Minutes
 - December 4, 2012
3. Mayoral Initiatives: Mayor Ralph McGill
4. Talking Points for Board of Mayor and Aldermen: Michael Singletary
5. Gift Basket Idea: Mark Littleton
6. School Needs List Update
7. Any Other Business

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.

erc bullets for mayor's use

Notes for a "Mayor's Initiative to Support Farragut Schools"

Farragut's Education Relations Committee, seeking to help Farragut schools meet needs that are beyond normal county and town subsidies, offer the following 'talking points' to Mayor McGill so that -- if an opportunity arose -- he could appeal to businesses and industries to "adopt" a school or assist the school as a "Partner in Education."

TALKING POINTS

1. Farragut students are higher than average SES, but it is not true that Farragut schools receive disproportionate funding or that all their needs have been met. Our ERC has identified some of the unmet needs and they can be found on the town's web site. Farragut schools need dedicated and enthusiastic supporters.
2. Farragut schools are one of the central identifying characteristics of the Town. They create a "family destination" in that very often families move here specifically to be a part of our high-achieving schools. This is beneficial for business.
3. Farragut schools are among the highest achieving in the state. In 2007 F.H.S. was tied with White Station High for the most National Merit Scholarships among Tennessee high schools. In 2008, F.H.S. led the state in National Merit Scholarships. In 2005 and 2006, Newsweek Magazine ranked F.H.S. as being in the top 5% of high schools in the nation based on its AP programs. More recently, F.H.S. was a Top 5 school in Tennessee and rated "Best High School " -- silver medal category -- by U.S. News and World Report.
4. While Farragut schools are highly rated, good support is needed to help assure that such status is maintained. Private funds will help maintain the Farragut educational tradition.
5. Business and industry can "give back" to their community via the schools. Business and industry can specify to which Farragut school/schools they want their support to go, and they should be given appropriate recognition -- on and off campus -- for their generosity via signage, BOMA meetings, news reports and such.
6. Support can be a one-time gift or a continuing gift.
7. Farragut schools represent an amazing asset to the Town, and the whole community needs to work diligently to assure that their success is maintained and enhanced.

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Valerie Millsapps

From: Mark Littleton <MLittleton@aisintn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 10:39 AM
To: 'Singletary, Michael W'; 'Russ Barber'; 'Nancy Wentz'; 'juliacruz45@gmail.com'
Cc: Valerie Millsapps; Gary Palmer
Subject: Idea: Knox Co. teacher surprised with \$1000 worth of classroom supplies

ERC members:

The link below describes how a KCS teacher was surprised by \$1000 worth of classroom supplies from a local business. My initial reaction was that it seemed a great idea, didn't involve any long term commitment, got great press for the business, was simple to execute and was well received in the classroom.

I will add an agenda item for next meeting to see if we have interest in putting our own spin on the idea, but thought you might consider it in the interim. We could promote businesses to make "baskets" of supplies for a teacher of their choosing. (We might even ask the schools to highlight specific teachers.) Depending on the time of year that we promote it, we could assign some logical name like Fall Harvest, School Stockings, New Year Kickoff, Sweethearts for Schools, etc. On balance, we might also decide that we should pursue other activities instead. As always, it's all in the discussion.

Thanks for your good participation yesterday.

Mark Littleton

Link to article:

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=237007>

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