



Farragut/Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee Meeting

March 5, 2013

4:00 PM

Town Hall Main Floor, Board Room

Meeting Agenda

1. Call To Order (Chairman)
2. Approval Of Minutes
 - February 5, 2013
3. Welcome guest Mr. Joe Carson
4. Farragut Primary School Update: Michael Singletary
5. Update on Farragut Banners: Nancy Wentz
6. Any Other Business

Town of Farragut Education Committee Minutes

February 5, 2013

Attending: Mark Littleton, Nancy Wentz, Mike Singletary, Russell Barber, Gary Palmer, Valerie Millsaps

Absent: Julia Craze

Guest: Mayor Ralph McGill

Press: Suzanne Neal, Alan Sloan, Sherri Gardner Howell

Mark Littleton called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes from the January meeting. One correction was made and then the minutes were approved.

Feedback for Chris Malone's initiative to involve fathers in the schools:

- Russ Barber reported that Kay Wellons, the Intermediate school principal, said they are already participating in "All Pro Dads" which has been a great program addition this year. She said Dads and Granddads could read to students, make copies, or practice math facts with students.
- Mark Littleton reported that Mike Reynolds, principal of Farragut High School, is receptive to the proposal. However, anyone participating would have to be cleared which would include drug screening. He would use volunteers in targeted areas such as tutoring where there is an ongoing need.
- Other committee members were asked to get feedback from their schools which Mark will then provide to Mr. Malone.

Feedback on Mayor's Speaker Registry:

- Mike Littleton reported that the high school already has a Speaker's Registry that is available for the teachers to call on as needed. However it was noted that the public in general is not aware of the opportunity or the need to participate. Gary Palmer pointed out that there is a link on the town website that can be used for people to volunteer to assist at the schools. However, no needs for the Farragut schools were identified on the website. It was recommended that the Farragut information channel be used to advertise the opportunity for community involvement at the schools.
- Russ Barber reported that Kay Wellons said "we might have teachers who could use guest speakers, but generally speaking due to time constraints and the volume of the curriculum, we don't have as much need for guest speakers as we once did".
- Nancy Wentz noted that the use of guest speakers or specialists in areas such as robotics might be better used in after school settings rather than during the class time.

Feedback/discussion of Mayor's Teen Council initiative:

- Mark Littleton reported that Farragut High School is receptive to "mentorships" with Town leaders similar to other mentorships the school now has.

- Mayor McGill said he was thinking of something not part of the schools but more tied to the town with help from the schools in identifying students who would like to understand what public service is all about.
- Sherrie Gardner Howell of the Farragut Shoppers News said the paper was interested in sponsoring a teen council for the town. The paper would host a breakfast to kick off the year and then host a dinner at the end of the year to honor the student participants. It would be similar to what now exists in Blount County. She said three to four students from each of the Blount County schools are nominated to participate on a "Teen Council". This has become very popular with the students, partly because it looks good on their college applications. Mayor McGill will contact the group in Blount County and consider it as a model for what he would like to do.

Resolution for ERC's "Talking Points" for the Board of Aldermen:

- Mike Singletary reviewed the revised letter and "Talking Points" concerning the needs of Farragut schools that he had prepared to provide to the BOMA for use when talking to community groups. Nancy Wentz also provided a flyer prepared by FHS documenting accomplishments of the school. The committee voted to go forward with the information.
- Mayor McGill recommended that a representative from the committee present the letter to the BOMA at their next meeting on February 14 at 7 pm. Mike will take the lead in the presentation.

Nancy Wentz reported that she had authorized her contact at FHS to proceed with making the banners concerning the support they are receiving from the Town of Farragut but had not received feedback as to their status. She will pursue and report back when they are completed.

Meeting was adjourned

Valerie Millsapps

From: Mark Littleton <MLittleton@aisintn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 4:49 PM
To: Valerie Millsapps; 'Russ Barber'; 'Singletary, Michael W'; 'Julia Craze'; 'Nancy Wentz'
Cc: Gary Palmer; Ralph McGill
Subject: Correction: ERC Meeting Agenda

I forgot a couple of things:

1) My summary below from Mr. Carson's note to Town administration, which made its way to me and thus our agenda: ...I would appreciate 20 minutes of your time to discuss my efforts to make greater Knoxville-Oak Ridge area a national prototype for getting a significant portion of our area's 10K engineers and scientists engaged as volunteers in STEM Ed outreach activities. Vols4STEM www.Vols4STEM.org is now in a pause mode, but we may be coming back with something...because we are trying to create a national model that hundreds of other communities around Country can adopt/adapt.

(Mr. Carson is School Board Member K. Carson's husband.)

2) M. Singletary gave me an update from FPS regarding recent topics, which I summarized below. He will likely offer further comments since my points are abbreviated.

Farragut Primary notes Feb. 15, 2013

- Used Farragut money to buy computers for 18 teachers, but there are 63 teachers. That amounted to about \$18k with another \$45k needed.
- Most of the remaining money was used for playground mulch which is very expensive (\$15k for this playground).
- Immediate needs are technology and professional development.
- Long-range need for pedestrian awning in pickup/drop-off areas. (Est. \$60k)
- Building interior could use fresh paint.
- Security: Entrance by buzzer, no armed guard. (Next point identifies a possible improvement.)
- Security: Would prefer visitors limited to one entrance in the back, with a foyer cordoned for security.
- Fathers in Schools: No identified need for male presence in hallways at this age level (PK-2). Additional volunteers would be a low priority. PTA already staffs a strong core of volunteers.
- No need for a speaker registry or a student council.
- (End of this summary.)

As an aside, it does give me some pause that:

- The Mayor has a desire to engage community personalities in schools.
- Mr. Carson is championing the same topic from a specific STEM perspective.
- Mr. Malone is interested in promoting "Fathers in Schools", (which KCS lists as a community engagement method on their website).
- KCS administration has on-line mechanisms and staff member(s) to facilitate community-to-school interaction, including a committee that meets quarterly.
- We (ERC) cannot readily identify that our schools see a strong need for this type of collaboration.

If I can find a KCS administrator who can attend and address this seeming conundrum, please expect that we will insert it into the agenda.

Mark