

Farragut/Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from September 3, 2013

Approved October 8, 2013

- I. Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm with a quorum. Members present included Russ Barber, Mark Littleton, Shyam Nair, Michael Singletary, Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, and Nancy Wentz along with Valerie Millsapps and Gary Palmer of Town Administration. Member Julia Craze was absent due to a scheduling conflict.
- II. Minutes from the June 4, 2013 and August 6, 2013 meetings which had previously been emailed were distributed in hard copies. With a motion from Barber and second from Wentz, the documents were unanimously approved.
- III. Chair Littleton opened the floor for nominations of committee officers. With discussion, Chair Littleton agreed to serve another year, Nair agreed to serve as Vice-Chairman and Pennycuff-Trent agreed to serve as Secretary. Barber made the motion to approve the slate of officers, which was seconded by Wentz and unanimously approved.
- IV. School assignments were discussed with Chair Littleton, Singletary, and Barber providing background information on the history of the development, the purpose, and the past successes of the relationship between schools and the ERC. Discussion ensued about whether or not the new Northshore Elementary was in the town limits. After looking at maps and consulting with Town Administrator Palmer, the committee agreed that Northshore Elementary is not in the Town of Farragut. School assignments were divided as follows:
 - a. Farragut Primary: Singletary
 - b. Farragut Intermediate: Pennycuff-Trent
 - c. Farragut Middle: Nair
 - d. Farragut High: Littleton
 - e. Hardin Valley: Wentz

It was also noted that Craze would like to work with all schools and the central office.

- V. Chair Littleton reminded the committee that Principal for a Day was set for Thursday, November 21 and that all committee members could participate if desired. Singletary and Wentz declined to participate and Chair Littleton said that he might not be available that day.
- VI. Related to Item 9 on the agenda, Chair Littleton provided the board a handout on *Thank a Teacher Week* from the Great Schools Partnerships. He proposed that the board encourage participation by promoting the dates (September 30-October 4, 2013) in official communication including the website. After much discussion about what PTO/PTSOs might already be doing in schools, Chair Littleton asked that all members contact their represented school to find out if they already had something planned for that week. Barber moved to adopt, and Chair Littleton amended the motion to adopt and publish other school dates related to participation in this and

other related campaigns to help circulate the information. Motion was seconded and approved by acclimation.

- VII. Budget information on school funds was discussed at length with Chair Littleton reminding the board that funds were distributed equally last year regardless of the number of Town residents in each school. He asked if the committee wanted to study other methods of allocation. Singletary, Barber, and Chair Littleton provided facts about the potential impact of funding distribution, and Chair Littleton asked the board if they wanted to pick up the item to study in a work-session or as a subcommittee examination. After further discussion from Chair Littleton, Singletary, Barber, and Wentz, Chair Littleton stated that the matter would be tabled until such time as Knox County began to open new schools causing a need to address the issue again.
 - a. Additionally, Singletary requested that the board lobby BOMA to encourage funding at the same rate as last year to maintain the greatness of the schools. Palmer supplied a copy of the adopted budget, which does allow for a continuation of funding at the same rate as last year allocating \$22,000 per school. Singletary will draft a letter to BOMA and bring to the October meeting.
- VIII. Chair Littleton recommended that the board revisit ERC facilitation of a list of “guest speakers” or “subject matter experts” at a later date due to the fact that Knox Co. hasn’t finished training yet.
- IX. Items in the media about designated school zones and marked cross walks were presented by Chair Littleton. Recent incidents and hazards were discussed by Chair Littleton, Barber, and Wentz resulting in the board inviting the Town Engineer to attend the October meeting to present more information.
- X. Dates for the October meeting were discussed as both Chair Littleton and Wentz have scheduling conflicts with the established date. The committee agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday, October 8 at 4:00 pm.
- XI. Baber expressed his gratitude and pleasure in serving on the committee for three and a half years. He stated that he hoped the work of the committee moved forward. He will be moving to accept a position within his church.
- XII. With no other business, the committee adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.