Farragut/Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee Meeting

February 4, 2014
4:00 PM
Town Hall Main Floor, Board Room

Meeting Agenda

1. Call To Order (Chairman)

2. Approval Of Minutes
   - January 7, 2014

3. Welcome Special Guest: Scott Bacon

4. Teacher Awards for each school: Nancy Wentz

5. Any Other Business

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from January 7, 2014

DRAFT

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Littleton. Members present were Julia Craze, Michael Singletary, Mark Littleton, Nancy Wentz, and Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, as well as Gary Palmer and Valerie Millsaps of the Town administration. Alderman Ron Honken was also present as a guest.

II. The December meeting did not have a quorum however the committee decided that items were non-contentious and could be accepted as information. Motion by Singletary and seconded by Wentz. Motion carried by acclimation.

III. Singletary presented Classrooms for Adoption article from *Farragut Life.* Organization encourages businesses to adopt a classroom with teachers using funds at their discretion. Singletary recommended that we let the schools and PTA/PTO/PTSOs know about the program and encourage them to write letters to businesses inviting them to adopt a classroom through the website. Also recommends that we call this to the attention of principals. Wentz questioned "affiliate vendors" in article. Craze has heard of the concept, but not this particular organization. Littleton asked if the organization takes a percentage of donations, and it does not appear so. Unrestricted funds go to the organization as do a percentage of sales from vendors according to website. Littleton would like us to revisit with Scott Bacon at the February meeting. In the meantime, we should contact principals and ask them to request that teachers create a classroom wishlist and ask PTO/PTA/PTSOs to write letters to potential business donors telling them about the program.

    i. Discussion ensued about Partners in Education program and how it targets schools while this program targets classrooms.
    ii. FHS has an email subscription list called Bypass the Backpack that could also be used to communicate with parents in hopes that they might donate as well.
    iii. Will revisit next time as well with more information.

IV. Singletary also addressed the issue of having PTA/PTO/PTSOs from each school come to discuss the school's issues with us. Littleton reminded the board that we have contacted the representatives but have not had much response. Littleton asked that we let him know when we have made contact and the representatives are ready to present at our meetings. Please continue to try to do that in 2014.

V. Alderman Ron Honken, a school advocate, reminded us that communities in general can sometimes forget about schools. Encouraged committee to Google Dollars for Scholars program: Minnesota program started by local bank in 1983 where interest goes to scholarships. Now has endowment shy of $10 million. Town leaders have supported education in the past. Honken challenged us to do the Principal for a Day program and to do it in a school outside of the Farragut area to have a benchmark of other schools.

    a. When a teacher in our community is recognized by someone, we do a good job of recognizing that recognition. He would like to see us have at least one teacher if not

several that we recognize with criteria. Our schools number one asset is our teachers. Create recognition. We should create a proposal to bring before the BOMA.

b. Sue Stoole in charge of annual report, and while it is a good publication, there is nothing of amount of recognition about the schools. History, pictures, accomplishments of students, academics, athletics, etc... Would have to be voted on by whole BOMA.
c. Would like us to work on formal and consistent teacher recognition program and do something on an annual basis that goes in Town report.
d. Littleton and Wentz both commented on the academic successes that are shared at FHS graduation and the HVA assembly at the end of the year, which are inspirational.
e. We have a community of just over 20,000 and we have the 10th and 12th ranked high schools in the state.
f. Singletary thinks that we should try to elevate all the Farragut schools to be recognized as outstanding. Littleton reminded the committee that FHS and HVA wouldn't do as well if not for the feeder schools. Tend to see the athletic and academic achievements of high schools, and we don't see that at primary and middle schools.
g. Littleton asked Honken to estimate how much copy material we could get for our schools. Shoot for 3-4 pages. Usually have to do 4 pages. Sue Stoole is grand coordinator and we will have to talk to her. Littleton asked Honken to review process: come to board with proposal to insert information about schools in town publication with copy in hand. Honken agreed unless it changes budget drastically, it would likely pass. Honken reminds us to celebrate the wonderful things that the schools are doing.
h. Littleton proposed that we all come up with draft list of items from our schools in next month and bring back to the group at next meeting. Honken suggested to get history and highlights, and could get it on the website to further expand. Great teachers could also be included. Honken also asked that we get it to BOMA by April 1. Palmer will ask Sue Stoole to come to the next meeting.
i. Honken thanked the committee and the press for what they do.

VI. Other Business

a. FBLA regional meeting on February 14 in Harriman; volunteer judges for student competitions needed.
b. Scott Bacon and Sue Stoole will be at the next meeting.
c. Members should bring brainstormed lists of items for the Farragut Annual Report.
d. Wentz moved that we look at funding for recognition for teachers. Town-centric reward program for local teachers. Craze seconded the motion. Our committee should help develop a program and criteria to present to BOMA to ask for funding for $5000 for a monetary award to one teacher at each of the five schools. Discussion on amount. Littleton reminded the committee that Honken recommended we develop a program that includes teacher recognition and that it warrants lots of discussion. Criteria would need to include a board that reviews the criteria and we would be in charge of that. Teachers would be recommended by the school and a stipend would be given by the Town each year. Wentz: Move idea but not how. Littleton: Motion that we the ERC move forward with the establishment of program which would establish criteria and

funds for recognition for teachers. All approved by acclimation. Shoot for April 1. Will be put back on agenda for next month. Come up with criteria to share by next month.

e. Palmer will advise on how to schedule our next session.

f. Motion to adjorn was made by Craze and passed by unanimous acclimation.