

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from May 6, 2014

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Littleton. Members present were Michael Singletary, Mark Littleton, Nancy Wentz, and Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, as well as Gary Palmer and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Guests Alan Sloane and Joe Carson were also present.
- II. Due to lack of a quorum at the March meeting, no minutes will be presented. Minutes from February 4 will be discussed at June meeting when copies can be prepared for review.
- III. Nancy Wentz presented Golden Anchor Awards criteria to consider recognizing notable teachers by the Town. Anyone can nominate an educator and all nominations are ranked by a committee of 8 with stakeholders from all areas. Rank order is summed and top 8 are passed to a smaller committee which chooses the top 5. Discussion ensued on whether or not the ERC should pursue this with BOMA given how much they already give to the schools. Discussion then continued about how to recognize and reward teachers. Nancy Wentz moved that our committee in some way rewards teachers in some way for each of the 5 schools. Gary Palmer suggested that we start with money. Nancy Wentz proposed that we award two teachers at each school \$1000 each based on criteria to be determined at a later date. This would mean that we petition BOMA for \$10,000 in this budget cycle. The motion was seconded by Kristen Trent. The suggestion was made to try to communicate with aldermen first and then present it. Littleton asked if we were going to approach the topic with the concept that the Town can aide KC schools by recognizing great teachers and trying to shore up the salary difference between KC and others systems while recognizing the effort of teachers. Motion passed unanimously. Palmer will help us develop a strategy for how and when to approach the BOMA. Littleton will communicate with Alderman Honken.
- IV. Michael Singletary reminded us of the importance of PTO/PTA/PTSO visits to ERC. He stated that the mission of our committee is to find out what is happening in schools and best way to find out is to ask them. We have had one PTA person attend, and we would like to see all schools' PTO /PTA/PTSO meetings and share with them what our committee does to enlist others to apply to be a part of our committee. Michael Singletary pointed out that if they come here their position is to inform us. HVA did come to share and we will keep the effort going. Chair Littleton and Wentz also recommended that we try to visit our schools' organizations as well.
- V. Chair Littleton revisited of Alderman Honken's visit and recommendation about including more on our schools in the Annual Report. Chair Littleton met with David Smoak and sent an email as a report to the committee. The Annual Report document is published in 4 page increments. In recent years the document has been cut to lower costs. Content was adjusted to reflect that change, as Sue Stuhl reiterated when she came to meet with ERC. There is no room in the current report to add more content and the schools are beyond the control of the Town. A key feature of the Town is the great schools and it may be a selling point. Chair Littleton, Gary Palmer, and David Smoak had a phone conference and Mr.

Smoak stated that the Town is trying to be a good steward of their resources. Because a quorum was not present, Chair Littleton did not negotiate. Mr. Smoak offered to work with Sue Stuhl to get additional content in the publication and to include web addresses that we could develop into web content about schools. The purpose would be to capture and brag about the features of these schools and we could hyperlink to the individual schools' websites. Nancy Wentz said she would rather see more in the Report and recommended 1 page be devoted to the schools. She reminded us that most people move to Farragut for the schools. Michael Singletary noted that the headings needed more content and suggested that we might need to add a few lines to these paragraphs. Discussion ensued about our two options: bring back some of the content and leave room for 1 page on schools or remove content to make room for 1 page of school content. Chair Littleton proposed that we invite David Smoak and Sue Stuhl to come back to see what they can do or sending someone to negotiate directly with them. Committee is in agreement that we could use the Town's resources to create nice websites about the schools from a Town perspective with hyperlinks to the individual school sites. Resolution to send Littleton to meet with Smoak and Stuhl and give more attention to schools in Town report and ask them what they can do for us starting with discussion.

- VI. Littleton introduced guest Joe Carson. Mr. Carson passed out an email for discussion on STEM. Mr. Carson asked if the ERC was involved in the tax issue between Farragut and Knox County as well as zoning issues. Mr. Carson also discussed that approximately 3% of FHS that are 18 are registered to vote. He asked if anyone saw the Amanda Ripley speech "The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way" posted on www.bethebestknox.com. He also asked if we made a request to the Knox County Schools' Strategic Plan? And asked why they did not reach out to us? He discussed the L & N STEM Academy, 42 graduates, amazing projects, avg. ACT 30. ASME will sponsor a working breakfast for 20% of engineers donating 10 hours/year. Chair Littleton provided clarification on safety and security issues in past and the progress in background identification programs. Chair Littleton said he is convinced that a great number of people in our area have a great deal to offer. Mr. Carson discussed Airbnb, a new sharing economy. He would like to create an effective and efficient connection to professionals and resources with students. Mr. Carson stated that no community in the country is saying that they are a model for connecting professionals with students and he would like to make it a reality. He invited all of us to a working breakfast on this objective. Chair Littleton thanked him for his participation and input.
- VII. Chair Littleton asked for other discussion. None was presented. Adjournment was moved by Nancy Wentz and seconded by Michael Singletary. Meeting was adjourned by acclamation.