

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from August 5, 2014

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Littleton. Members present were Michael Singletary, Mark Littleton, Lee Wickman, Carla Werner, Tony Carasso, and Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, as well as Gary Palmer and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Guests Alan Sloane and Athanasia Lewis, MTAS Fellow, were also present.
- II. Minutes from June 3 were presented and Lee Wickman moved that they be accepted. Tony Carasso seconded the motion and it was approved by acclimation.
- III. Chair Littleton called for any additions to the agenda. After Item 8a, Chair Littleton would like to present a volunteer opportunity.
- IV. Chair Littleton welcomed the new committee members and asked for each to introduce themselves. The support of the Town administration and staff was presented, as was an overview of the committee.
 - a. Chair Littleton provided an overview of three key areas in the past three years:
 - i. Needs of the schools and the relationships between the five KCS schools and BOMA
 1. Committee members assigned to each school.
 2. School's Needs List on Town's website
 3. Replaced school sign and repaired sidewalk from main street to FPS
 - ii. Funding and support
 1. Using Needs List as a tool, petitioned BOMA for targeted funds to meet those needs. BOMA responded by increasing support and funding from \$10,000 per school per year to \$22,000 per year.
 - iii. Attempt to increase the involvement of citizens
 1. Had at least three different citizens approach the committee and propose their ideas for how to get citizens more involved. We have had some administrators and teachers support the idea and some that have shown us that there are some ways that would not work.
 - a. Guest lecturers, summer camp type activities, fathers in schools
 2. Researched Knox County's Volunteer Opportunity Website.

3. Proposed that the Town could encourage teachers with monetary rewards, but the timing was not right due to ongoing litigation between KCS and the Town.
- iv. School liaisons to contact each school for news, needs, etc...
- v. Encourage PTSO reps to visit the committee to discuss issues and fundraising.
- vi. Adopt-a-School initiative
- vii. Suggestions from new members
 1. Adopt-a-School run by Chamber of Commerce in Blount County
 2. Liaison to Farragut High's Education Foundation Committee
 3. HVA has a committee that solicits businesses for support and then divides the proceeds to all sports, music, and organizations

V. Election of Officers

- a. Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary needed. Chair Littleton opened the floor for nominations. Lee Wickman nominated Mark Littleton for chair and the motion was seconded by Kristen Trent. Chair Littleton nominated Kristen Trent. Discussion ensued. Lee Wickman volunteered to be secretary. Chair Littleton retracted his nomination and restated as nominating Kristen Trent for Vice Chair. Chair Littleton recapped the discussion. Motion passed by acclamation.

VI. Old Business

- a. A proposal was out for teacher awards to encourage the Town to provide monetary rewards to teachers with criteria to be determined at a later date. Topic was sensitive due to the timing when litigation was on the table. Idea was tabled until a better time.
- b. Carla Werner recommended a broader perspective for recognition rather than money. She also suggested that the schools could meet certain criteria for recognition as well.
- c. Chair Littleton reiterated the purpose to recognize the efforts of teachers. Chair Littleton suggested that we leave the Teacher Awards dormant to bring back up later.

VII. New Business

- a. Youth Program Development: BOMA's strategic plan has a goal of creating Youth Engagement Program. Garry Palmer referred to the packet from the National League of Cities and talked about the Mayor's previous visit to the committee. He requested that the committee take the information under consideration and come back with something for the board to look at. Lee Wickman discussed the Leadership Club at FHS. Students

must pick a project each year. She recommended going through that club as well as any of the civics related departments at the high school. Chair Littleton suggested that we bring this item back as an agenda item next month. He encouraged each member to read all material and come back to discuss next month.

- b. Chair Littleton also presented the Community School Prayer Walk flyer. Since it does impact the schools in our area, Chair Littleton wanted us to be aware that on Sunday from 1:30-2:30 a prayer walk will be conducted at all five of our schools.

VIII. Chair Littleton asked for questions or discussion.

- a. Mark Singletary stated that it was his observation that people usually move to our area because of our schools. He stated that we are charged with maintaining and facilitating the excellent representation of our schools.
- b. Motion to adjourn was made by Tony Carasso and seconded by Mike Singletary.