

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes form Tuesday, September 2, 2014

I. Chair Littleton called the meeting to order at 4:01. A quorum was declared. Attendees were Mark Littleton (Chair), Mike Singletary, Carla Werner, Tony Carasso and Lee Wickman as well as Gary Palmer and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Alan Sloane was present as a guest.

II. Minutes from August 5, 2014 were presented. Tony Carasso motioned that the minutes be approved, seconded by Lee Wickman. There was no discussion and the motion passed by acclimation.

III. Chair Littleton called for any additions to the agenda. There were none.

IV. Youth Engagement Program

IVa. The question was asked, “How involved does the city want us to be regarding the youth development programming?” Originally the mayor approached the committee approximately one and a half years ago. Several ideas were broached. Firstly, we must identify youth with a heart for being involved in government. Shadowing local officials, a summer internship and attendance at council meetings were just some of the ideas. It was also suggested that we could allow a high school student to organize and coordinate a volunteer event for citizens. Other comments of note are; students need be able to have meaningful work; and students have technical abilities they can use to benefit the town. Chair Littleton commented that it is important for the youth to know that the town is interested in their future and well-being.

Mr. Palmer mentioned that the town would like our committee to brainstorm and come to the board with recommendations and a framework for a program. Ms. Werner suggested a small plan with the intention of growing the program gradually. Mr. Palmer commented that having a student shadow the mayor or council member would be useful for showing them how municipal government operates. He also noted that Sue Stuhl often works with students.

Chair Littleton reminded the committee that we are obliged to do this based upon our charter. The Town of Farragut officials would like us to use the National League of Cities Authentic Youth Civic Engagement Guide... Mark voiced our general agreement that we are not prepared to meet with the Mayor just yet or any school officials.

Lee. Wickman motioned that we schedule a workshop meeting for Tuesday September 16 at 4 PM to discuss the Youth Engagement booklet. It was seconded by Tony Carasso. A committee workshop to take an in-depth look at the program has been scheduled for Tuesday, September

14 at 4 PM. The committee should come prepared with a good knowledge of the material in the booklet. The goal is to prepare a framework for the program.

IVb. Alternatives to Teacher Awards

Tony Carasso stated that in banking, it is important to recognize top producers. He would still like the committee to consider rewarding for the “top producer”. Carla Werner suggested a teachers day off is always a welcome respite. The TOF would have to pay for the substitute. She also shared a story about rewarding teachers with a cake each month. Chair Littleton reminded the committee that we currently do not have a budget or a template on how to award the incentive. The issue has been tabled because of the liquor tax issues currently facing the Town. It was also noted that the Town’s fiscal year ends June 30.

Mike Singletary remarked that the Town already gives a generous amount to the schools each year. He suggested laying out a program first and then let the Town vote as to whether or not to fund the program. The purpose is to help the town’s relations with the schools noting that the Town would keep control of the dollar amount spent for teacher awards.

IVc. School Liaisons

The committee members were asked to volunteer as liaisons for each school. The assignments are as follows:

Farragut High School	Lee Wickman
Farragut Primary School	Kristen Pennycuff-Trent
Farragut Middle School	Tony Carasso
Hardin Valley Academy	Carla Werner
Farragut Intermediate School	Mike Singletary

IVd. PTA, PTO, PTSA, and PTSO Liaisons This agenda item was not addressed due to time constraints.

IVe. Education Foundation Liaisons This agenda item was not addressed due to time constraints.

V. Review Any Action Items No reports.

VI. Motion to adjourn was made by Tony Carasso and seconded by Chairman Littleton.