

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from October 7, 2014

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Littleton at 4:01 pm. A quorum was declared. Members present were Michael Singletary, Mark Littleton, Carla Werner, Tony Carasso, and Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, as well as Gary Palmer and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Guest Alan Sloane was also present.
- II. Minutes from September 2 were presented and Tony Carasso moved that they be accepted. Kristen Pennycuff-Trent seconded the motion and it was approved by acclimation. No discussion ensued.
- III. There was a call for additions to the agenda and none were presented.
- IV. TnAchieves material was shared by Kristen Pennycuff-Trent. Mentors are needed to help assist students entering college navigate the hidden rules such as FASFA applications and registration. Mentors agree to attend a one hour training session by December 15, participate in two team meetings (January and March), and contact students through phone, email, or texts once every two weeks from January to December. Both Farragut High School and Hardin Valley Academy are on the list of schools needing mentors in Knox County. Those interested in participating should apply online at www.tnachieves.org. Chair Littleton asked if this information should be shared on the website, and Gary Palmer said that we could track hits on the website. Mr. Palmer said he could add this information to the site.
- V. Authentic Youth Engagement Program
 - a. Work session effort did not work out in the last month, so the item is back on the table.
 - b. Chair Littleton started the discussion around the Four Pathways to Youth Engagement diagram on page 23 of the packet.
 - i. Involvement, consultation, representation, and shared leadership
 - ii. We need to know how elected officials stand on this topic.
 - iii. Marathon approach versus sprint. Taking small steps might make more sense.
 - iv. Needs assessment should go first to all stakeholders.
 - v. As an Educations Relations Committee, the educational aspect should be our guide. Academic interests should guide our moves.
 - vi. Might need to determine what BOMA's intentions would be for us. Might consider inviting Alderman Honken and the Mayor to address the committee.

Strategic plan shows priority of Youth Master Plan for Alderman Honken. Mr. Palmer will invite both Alderman Honken and the Mayor.

- vii. What areas do they think students could help make meaningful connections? List committees that would be interested in having youth members and what other committees might need to be created. Where does this town want to go with Youth Engagement and do we as a committee contribute to that? What age are we discussing?

- viii. Chair Littleton thanked the committee for trying to make the work session work.

VI. Call for Review of Action Items

- a. Mr. Carasso asked if we should contact the schools as liaisons. Chair Littleton reminded the committee that there are no set rules for interacting with the schools, but asked that we contact the principal first. Try to make the link by emphasizing that the Town wants to continue supporting the schools and would like a needs list to update the website. We need to update the list. Chair Littleton said that a great icebreaker would be to print the current needs list from online and ask how it could be updated. The Town is currently giving \$22,000 to each school. Please ask where the money from the Town has been going.
 - i. Schools do not need to apply for this, but there are community grants that schools with specific needs/projects may want to apply.
 - ii. Fiscal year is July to July, and no payments have been made this school year. Mr. Palmer will check the timeline for presenting money to schools and get back to us.
- b. PTO/PTA Liaisons: Please identify the president of the organization at the school and ask them to share needs, current fundraising efforts and results, anything that they can share. Please invite them to our meetings.
- c. Action Item: In the next month, try to reach out to school through administration and the parent/teacher organization.
- d. Mrs. Werner asked that liaisons be notified when the funds will be presented to schools so that we could attend. Mr. Palmer said that they would email all of us.
- e. Action Item: For our next meeting, please report on your school's needs.

VII. Motion to adjourn presented by Mr. Carasso and seconded by Mrs. Werner.