

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from November 4, 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 David Smoak and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Guest Alan Sloane was also present.
- II. Minutes from October 7 were presented and Tony Carasso moved that they be accepted. Mike Singletary 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. Discussion of Principal for a Day. Carla Werner and Kristen Pennycuff-Trent have responded and received confirmation. Mike Singletary filled out a form but has not received confirmation. Chair Littleton will check on this for him tomorrow.
- V. Updates on School Assignment Visits were shared.
 - a. Mike Singletary visited Reggie Mosley at FIS who volunteered to come to some of our meetings to participate. The school has a playground project that might need support (rubber mulch), as well as the parking situation (visitor and staff have trouble finding spaces). Five thousand dollars was requested for a gravel parking lot and \$15,000 - \$20,000 for rubber mulch. Technology is also an area of need with connectivity issues. Fourteen to 16% of students are on the free and reduced lunch program. Principal expressed gratitude for Town's financial support. PTA is very successful with a donation of \$16,000.
 - b. Tony Carasso met with Danny Trent at FMS and received a tour of how Town's support was used. Two computer labs were funded with \$30,000 from coupon sales and \$10,000 from t-shirt sales. The total cost was \$60,000 and funds from the Town were used to make up the difference. Mr. Trent expressed gratitude to the Town. He is hoping to use this year's funds for new Mac computers for 6th grade teachers and support staff.
 - c. Kristen Pennycuff-Trent visited with Gina Byrd at FPS.
 - d. Chair Littleton reminded the committee that we want to be specific with dollar amounts with each item so that potential donors might contribute. He also reminded the committee that reaching out to the PTSA presidents can be beneficial. There was also discussion based on redistributing funds based on per capita basis of students living within the Town limits. The committee voted not to discuss this proposal BOMA, and

Mr. Smoak reminded us that once the representing Board member and the Superintendent asked that the Town leave the amount as the same for all schools.

- e. Chair Littleton wants to share a new idea for sharing successes of projects funded by the Town for schools and asked that we keep tracking the items. Mr. Singletary added that he thought that it would be a great idea of keep track of the good things coming from Town's investment.

VI. Authentic Youth Engagement Program was discussed. Chair Littleton reminded the committee and Mr. Smoak of the history of the topic in the committee and asked for clarification on the perspective of the Mayor and Alderman Honken.

- a. Mr. Smoak thanked the committee for the opportunity to address the issue, and passed out a handout on Farragut Schools Student Involvement.
- b. Youth Master Plan and Youth Engagement Program may be different, but both the Mayor and Alderman were thinking more of how to get the youth involved in the community, what they would like to see in the community, how they could get involved more in the community, programming and supplementing or committee involvement. Difficulty could be in sustaining youth only committee each month. BOMA would love to see youth more involved either in job shadowing, coming to Town Hall for Farragut classes, etc...
- c. Mr. Singletary asked if the Town wanted students in decision making or in other capacities. Mr. Smoak answered that the Town would like to start small and become successful, then add layer to that. He also added that input is definitely needed.
- d. Mr. Singletary asked what committees youth could be involved in. Mr. Smoak talked about how the Parks Committee would be a great place to start, as would looking at the array of committees and decide which would lend themselves to youth contributions.
- e. Ms. Werner asked if students were involved in decision making in the events listed on the handout, and Mr. Smoak stated that students are usually volunteers. He reiterated that the students' input would certainly be considered. Ms. Werner asked if the handout presented could be a starting point in including students in decision making process in conjunction with committees developing events. Mr. Smoak reminded the committee that many of the events are shared responsibilities of committees and Town staff. He mentioned that the Town's Special Events Coordinator would be happy to sit down and look at ways to incorporate youth and events for youth.
- f. Mr. Smoak also discussed the new outdoor classroom and how it would open up opportunities for students to work with that.
- g. Alderman Honken joined the meeting and shared the history of the issue. He stated that many communities have programs for youth to share governance and to share their

ideas for what they want their community. His recommendation is to contact National League of Cities to identify community leaders to arrange conference calls to share what they're doing, how they're doing it, and what they think is important.

- i. Chair Littleton discussed different directions that this concept could take: how Town could serve families and youth, how we can reach youth and have input in decision making, or asking for youth input.
- ii. Alderman Honken suggested that we find two communities of similar size (15-50,000) that have gotten youth involved and ask how we can learn from them. He suggested that after that he may want to discuss the concept with BOMA members individually and draft a document of the direction that we should go. He stated that it might be neat to see if youth really wanted a specific type of business or recreation activity and we could work on that. It could involve informal leadership positions.
- iii. NLC may have additional information or resources as well that may help us and BOMA craft the vision of what we want and need.
- iv. Chair Littleton asked if the parents of youth were representing the needs and ideas of the youth to the government, and Alderman Honken said he would go back to look through the handout previously provided by NLC.
- v. Mr. Singletary asked about the idea of creating a shadowing committee that would provide youth the opportunity to provide input and asked who would supervise it and keep it going. Alderman Honken said that would need to be figured out. He said that our committee could take the lead in figuring out who would do that, even if it's not us. Mr. Singletary suggested that we might need a committee of school employees to keep the committee running. Alderman Honken said it wasn't a main focus to grow leaders in the Town, but that it might happen that they would do that. He talked about the money that youth spend and how we need to find a way to keep those dollars here in Farragut. He reminded us that we want the youth to enjoy where they live and to be able to stay closer to home to do what they want to do.
- vi. Chair Littleton shared his own experiences about friends starting a grass roots movement for beginning a soccer team. He shared the missed opportunities the town could have fulfilled. Alderman Honken shared that McFee Park still has about 75% to be developed and several million dollars. He doesn't want the adults to plan the park and the youth to feel like they missed it. Chair Littleton talked about the need for an Olympic sized swimming pool and how it might resonate with youth.

- vii. Mr. Smoak stated that he thought the Town could make calls to NLC in the upcoming week and have more materials to share with the committee at our next meeting. Chair Littleton asked if Alderman Honken and other BOMA members could be present for the calls and he agreed.
 - viii. Ms. Werner asked if we could tap into how students were getting involved in the successful communities, where the participants were coming from and how they were tapped to participate.
 - ix. Chair Littleton recapped that BOMA doesn't really have a specific vision, but are bringing the idea to us to see what we can flesh out.
- VII. Motion to adjourn by Mike Singletary and seconded by Ms. Werner. Meeting ended at 5:04pm.