

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from December 2, 2014

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Kristen Pennycuff-Trent at 4:03 pm. A quorum was declared. Members present were Carla Werner, Tony Carasso, and Lee Wickman, as well as Gary Palmer and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Guest Alan Sloane was also present.

II. Minutes from November 4 were presented and Tony Carasso moved that they be accepted. Lee Wickman seconded the motion and it was approved by acclimation. No discussion ensued.

III. There was a call for additions to the agenda. Ms. Werner asked to give an update on her meeting with Hardin Valley Academy principal Sallee Reynolds. Ms. Pennycuff-Trent also wished to report on her meeting at Farragut Primary School.

IV. Discussion

- a. Authentic Youth Engagement Program; More relevant information on other cities programs was distributed; Mr. Palmer suggested our next meeting should be a working meeting. He commented that other cities have some aggressive programs involving youth and has elected to share this information through Dropbox. Committee members will receive an "invitation" to view the documents by email. Please notify him if you would like to receive this information via an alternative email address.

Mr. Palmer suggested a conference call might be useful to speak with other cities about their programs. At the next meeting he suggested we come up with a framework and develop questions we might like to ask during the conference call. Specifically mentioned were the cities of Durango (CO), Fort Wayne (IN) and Burlington, VT. Mr. Carasso stated that we should start small and suggested all members go to the Town website (under the tab Schools Committee) to review the committees strategic plan and mission statement. Mr. Palmer commented this could turn into a full-time mission of the committee.

- b. Mr. Singletary was unable to attend. This agenda item will be moved to the January meeting.
- c. Ms. Werner spoke briefly about her meeting with Sallee Reynolds. She mentioned that the school is organized into academies and was very impressive in general, especially the Chinese language classes. The TOF donation will be used for technology improvements as the teachers laptops are 7 years old.
- d. Ms. Pennycuff-Trent visited Farragut Primary School. She was amazed by how many decisions administrators must make in a day. She mentioned that the

school is short on substitutes because there is a financial incentive for substitutes to work with inner city schools. Ms. Byrd, the principal asked us to get the word out to the community.

- e. Gary Palmer asked that an itemized list of school needs be sent to him and Ms. Hatmaker so that he may update the website.

IV. Action Items

- a. In the month of December, the committee should continue to make contacts at local schools, including PTA, PTSA and PTSO meetings.
- b. January will be a workshop meeting focusing on a framework for the Authentic Youth Engagement Program.

V. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Carasso and seconded by Ms. Werner. Meeting ended at 4:35. Our next meeting will be held on January 6, 2015.