

Farragut/ Knox County Schools Joint Education Relations Committee

Minutes from May 5, 2015

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Littleton at 4:03 pm. A quorum was declared. Members present were Mike Singletary, Carla Werner, and Tony Carasso, as well as Gary Palmer and Jennifer Hatmaker of the Town administration. Guest Alan Sloan with the FarragutPress was also present.
- II. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Minutes from April 7, 2015 were presented. Mr. Singletary moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Carasso seconded the motion. All voted in favor; motion passed.
- III. There was a call for additions to the agenda. Chair Littleton asked to discuss the Youth Engagement Workshop under Agenda Item 5: Review Any Action Items.
- IV. Youth Engagement: Format of Application and Selection Criteria

Chair Littleton stated that the Town currently has an existing committee application. Mr. Singletary stated that the committee could use the existing application and make adjustments. Chair Littleton asked the committee if student applicants should indicate his/her current status – i.e. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Mr. Singletary stated that the application should ask GPA and school. The committee discussed who would be an acceptable reference for the student applicant. The committee decided that teachers, administrators, ministers, coaches, business owners would be acceptable references. Ms. Werner suggested that the application should have a statement of interest question, “Why did you choose this committee?” and should ask student activities and clubs. Chair Littleton asked if the committee should include GPA on the application. Ms. Werner stated that GPA does not necessarily represent a student’s true interest. Chair Littleton recommended having the GPA on the application to prevent serving on a committee as a student representative from becoming a distraction for a struggling student. Mr. Singletary suggested making it a Yes/No question: “Do you have at least a 3.0 GPA?”; the committee agreed. Chair Littleton reviewed the information to be added to the Town Committee Application for student representatives: class status (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior), school, letter of recommendation, student activities, statement of interest, and 3.0 GPA. Mr. Palmer stated that the application may need to have a question regarding transportation to the meetings. Chair Littleton asked if the committee would like to recommend to exclude the Personnel Committee from having a youth representative due to the items that may be presented to that committee. Mr. Palmer stated that the Personnel committee no longer serves as the Grievance Committee. Mr. Singletary stated that a student may not have as much of a basis to contribute to the Personnel Committee as other committees.

Chair Littleton moved to recommend to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that the Personnel Committee be excluded from the Youth Engagement Initiative. Mr. Carasso seconded the motion. All voted in favor; motion passed.

- V. The committee reviewed the agenda for the 5:30 PM workshop. Ms. Werner reviewed her plan for the brainstorming session during the workshop. The committee discussed whether or not the youth representative on the committees should be a voting member. Mr. Palmer stated that the Town Attorney recommended that the position be non-voting. Mr. Palmer added that the committees have an odd number of committee members to prevent tie votes and if the youth representative is a voting member then another voting member would need to be added to keep the numbers odd. Mr. Palmer suggested making the student representative a non-voting position and stated that it could later evolve into a voting position. Chair Littleton stated that the committee originally recommended to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that the student representative should be a non-voting position. The committee agreed to keep the recommendation as is and keep the student representative a non-voting position.
- VI. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Carasso and seconded by Ms. Werner at 4:57 PM. The committee will reconvene at 5:30pm for the Youth Engagement Initiative Workshop. The next regular committee meeting will be held on June 2, 2015 at 4:00 PM in the Town Hall Board Room.