

MINUTES
FARRAGUT / KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS
EDUCATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2016
4:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, Carla Werner, Tony Carasso

Committee Members Absent:

Drew Carson

Staff Present:

Gary Palmer, Jenn Hatmaker

Call to Order

Chair Pennycuff-Trent called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Carasso moved to approve the January 5, 2016 minutes. Ms. Werner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Teacher Appreciation Program

Chair Pennycuff-Trent presented the Tyler Duke Foundation nomination form and stated that students and parents nominate a teacher and then the Foundation chooses who receives the award. Chair Pennycuff-Trent recommended having a nomination form on the website for students and teachers to fill out and then the Education Relations Committee can choose a recipient. Chair Pennycuff-Trent volunteered to contact former committee member Nancy Wentz regarding the scoring system Farragut High School uses when selecting a teacher to recognize and volunteered to contact Farragut Primary School (FPS) to ask why two teachers were selected from FPS.

Youth Member Program Update

Mr. Palmer emailed Michelle Brossett at Farragut High School regarding the student application. Mr. Palmer stated that he would contact the other schools and the home school association next week. The Stormwater Advisory Committee charter amendment to allow a youth representative will be presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen next week for approval.

Follow Up Discussion on School Grants

Mr. Palmer spoke with Town Administrator David Smoak regarding the amount the Town gives to the schools. Mr. Smoak said that when the Town started the process of giving money to the schools, the Mayor met with Jim McIntyre.

During the meeting it was decided to keep the amount same for all five schools. Mr. Smoak said he would talk to the Board about a formula-based amount.

Education Relations Committee Strategic Plan

The 2011-2012 strategic plan was reviewed. Mr. Palmer will email a word version of the plan to the committee members and asked that each committee member document their suggested changes to be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Carasso moved to adjourn. Ms. Werner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.



Town of Farragut Education Relations Committee

Strategic Plan 2011-2012

Approved February 7, 2012

History

The Education Relations Committee (ERC) was chartered by the Town of Farragut in September 2009 and had various activities through early 2011. ERC members appointed for the 2011-2012 term nevertheless found a committee without clear direction and goals. There were many ideas for actions to support and improve schools in Farragut, but a cohesive framework to organize and set priorities was missing.

The 2011-2012 ERC agreed to model other Town committees through the generation of a Strategic Plan. The plan will offer a cohesive direction such that the 2011-2012 and future ERC's will not struggle to identify their Mission, Values, Principles, Issues, Goals, and Objectives.

Mission

To create and maintain a forum for dialogue with Farragut schools, build a consensus on the needs of the schools and convey that information to Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA), citizens and businesses in ways that will foster community support for our schools.

Values/Principles

Excellence

Great schools are a foundation to great communities.

Innovation

Help Farragut schools identify innovative measures to obtain to achieve their needs.

Communication

Provide feedback to the schools, the Town of Farragut and the community concerning opportunities for improving the quality of education being provided.

Teamwork

Work together with Farragut schools in a collaborative manner with a common vision and purpose.

Problem Solving

Strive to find practical and effective solutions to achieve the desired high quality education in Farragut schools.

Strategic Issues 2011-2012

Funding

1. There is a false perception that the Farragut schools have all the resources they need.
2. No Title 1 funds follow NCLB students who transfer into the Farragut schools.
3. There is a significant need for more computers and computer labs at the schools.
4. There are inadequate funds to provide for professional development of faculty.
5. Physical facilities are aging and need upgrading.

School Districting / Assignments

1. District allocation for students.

Security / Safety

1. Lighting at Farragut High, Farragut Intermediate and Farragut Primary schools is inadequate.
2. Sidewalk access to Farragut Primary from Campbell Station is non-existent and unsafe.

Strategic Goals and Objectives

1. Goal: Establish dialogue with school administration and community.
 - a. Objective: Improve communication with the schools by having monthly contact with principals of each school by a member of the ERC.
 - b. Objective: Sponsor and/or attend public forums to educate community members of school needs.
2. Goal: Increase funding and support for schools.
 - a. Objective: Collaborate with the Economic Development Committee and meet with the Farragut Business Alliance on ways Farragut businesses can provide financial assistance and donated service to the schools and provide internships for students.
 - b. Objective: Meet with service organizations and request assistance to meet school needs.
 - c. Objective: Work with local newspapers to communicate with the community concerning needs of the schools and the importance of maintaining excellent schools in our community.
 - d. Objective: Utilize the town website and encourage Farragut schools to use their websites to identify specific school needs.
 - e. Objective: Communicate with the Town of Farragut Board of Aldermen concerning school needs and request an increase the amount of financial support provided to the schools.

Performance Measures & Desired Outcome

Performance measures used to evaluate the achievement of Goals and Objectives are:

1. Maintain a record of contacts by committee members with school principals.
2. Report on contacts made with businesses and service organizations requesting support.
3. Report on feedback and support obtained from businesses and service organizations.
4. Document newspaper stories and other communications with the community concerning school needs.
5. Obtain agreement from the Town of Farragut to significantly increase the town's financial support to the schools.
6. Obtain feedback via a Citizens Survey concerning the role of the Town of Farragut relating to Farragut schools.