



MINUTES FARAGUT/KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS  
EDUCATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MAY 03, 2018  
4:00 PM TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM

**Committee Members Present:**

Kristen Pennycuff-Trent, Tony Carasso, Carla Warner, LeAnn Trotter, Hyatt Christenberry

**Committee Members Absent:**

Alice Thornton

**Guests:**

Alderman Louise Povlin

Karen Rehder, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader ELA Teacher Farragut Middle School

**Staff Present:**

Jenn Hatmaker

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Pennycuff-Trent called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 6, 2018 and April 3, 2018 meetings were read and approved.

Appreciation letters to Farragut Intermediate School Principal Chris Henderson, who resigned in December, and newly named FIS Principal, Deborah Adorante, were read and approved for mailing.

**Discussion of an After-School Enrichment Program for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

LeAnn Trotter introduced guest Karen Rehder, 8th grade English Language Arts Teacher, at Farragut Middle School. Karen "put Farragut Middle on the map" between 2007-2014, as she sponsored multiple **national** winners of the C-SPAN Student Cam program.

Jenn Hatmaker reviewed the background and purpose of this called meeting... to discuss a special after school enrichment program for 8th grade students to introduce them to the Town of Farragut and create interest for the students to volunteer to serve on the Farragut Town Committees as high school juniors and seniors. Students must live in the Town of Farragut to serve on committees.

Farragut Middle does not currently have an organized Student Council from which to glean 8th grade students interest in government. Farragut High School does have an organized Student Council. Eighth grade students have an opportunity to show interest in this organization as part of the late spring Farragut High School transition. As the ERC Committee would like to initiate the enrichment program around March 2019, a student interest inventory would be needed earlier in the school year.

Alderman Povlin volunteered to contact the Farragut Middle and Farragut High Guidance Counselors to see if they can get the names of students interested in student government information earlier in the school year.

Carla Warner suggested that we need to keep the first attempt small and "advertise" to promote a leadership opportunity for the students.

Hyatt Christenberry suggested that participation in this type of learning is good for student resumes. She also said that it is helpful to have a peer group who are interested in government. Hyatt also explained to the committee how the STEM Academy Advisory Program works, as upperclassmen mentor underclassmen.

An after-school class for 8th grade students would need a teacher sponsor in addition to the class instructors. Hopefully, an 8th grade "class" would emphasize *future* leadership and involvement in the Town of Farragut Government, as students become high school juniors and seniors.

As a longtime 8th grade teacher, Ms. Rehder said that with this idea, we are "planting seeds of governmental leadership". She also praised eighth grade students as wanting substance and wanting adults to listen to their ideas.

LeAnn Trotter announced the recent Farragut Middle School Regional Science Fair Winners. Tony Carasso, Farragut Middle ERC Liaison, will contact Farragut Middle to congratulate these students on behalf of the ERC and The Town of Farragut. Alderman Povlin will check on having these students attend a BOMA Meeting to be recognized for their successes.

Jenn Hatmaker will be posting applications for the Town of Farragut Committees. She will also send student applications to Farragut High and private schools located within the town. Jenn announced that the Introduction to Farragut classes will be held in the fall...dates TBA.

The next regular ERC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 05, 2018, in the Town Hall Board Room at 4:00 PM.

As there was no other business, Tony Carasso moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.

LeAnn L. Trotter, Secretary