

# Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Education Committee

November 4, 2019 6:00 PM



## Members:

Dr. Robert Acuff in for Mark Blevins

Layla Ward

Nancy Brown

Travis Hill in for Gary Bailey

Charles Von Cannon

Sonja Culler

Jerry Proffitt

David Miller

### I. Call to Order

The Education Committee was called to order by Layla Ward at 6:00 pm.

### II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the November agenda by Sonja Culler, second by David Miller. The agenda were unanimously approved.

### III. Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October meeting by Charles VonCannon, second by Nancy Brown. The minutes were approved, with Travis Hill and Robert Acuff abstaining.

### IV. Public Comments

None

### V. Old Business

None

### VI. New Business

- Update from Dr. Bowers, Curriculum Director

Dr. Bowers came before the Education Committee to give an overview of the things that are being implemented in the Carter County School System. They have completed the first of three benchmarks. Dr. Bowers and three academic coaches go into the system to work with students. She believes that the benchmark testing will probably mimic the EOCs and TCAPs. When the scores are in Dr. Bowers and the team will go around to the schools to visit teachers and administrators to see what needs to be targeted. Principals from all the high schools and elementary schools came in and met with Mr. McClain and Dr. Bowers to look at where they are moving forward with each of the buildings. This year's focus is on Math and ELA, next year Science and Social Studies for 3-8, with high school being math only, mimicking what the state does. One of three writing benchmark has been completed in September as well. The program "Do The Math" has been implemented for the children

who need extra help. The Coaches and Dr. Bowers are excited about the new Teachers Academy that is being put into place for all new hires in the county. Policy, attendance, evaluations are among some of the topics that will be discussed during the monthly meetings.

Tennessee Aquarium will be coming into the system to meet with the k-1<sup>st</sup> teachers with a science curriculum and hopefully will they will be able to add 2<sup>nd</sup> grade next year.

ELA training has begun and will continue throughout the year based on what the state test stated last year. There is a group of teachers with a representative from each grade level that will be meeting with the coaches and Dr. Bowers with the purpose of going back into the school and pass on information to the other teachers. The System is joining with ETSU in a Science collaborative to receive a grant that will come back into the county. There are other grants through ETSU and Niswonger.

Questions:

Nancy Brown complimented the work being done in the county and is sure that the kids will benefit by everything being done.

David Miller asked how it is being addressed when the national scores show that Tennessee is doing pretty good in math and a few other subject but not in others. How is it effecting Carter County? Dr. Bowers replied that additional teachers during reading block are being brought in to give support to the teachers and to work with children who need additional assistance.

Mayor Barnett asked how many reward schools are in the county? Dr. Bowers replied that there are 2 (two) Happy Valley Elementary and Valley Forge Elementary.

Charles VonCannon aske if someone could request that Dr. Burt Bach at ETSU, who specializes in the study on why student don't excel, could come to a meeting and discuss his findings. Dr. Bowers said that she could reach out to Dr. Foley to discuss speaking to him.

Charles VonCannon asked if he could have permission to ask Dr. Bach to come. Dr. Ward said that he would love to have him come to one of the monthly meetings. He could come to one of the Board Meetings because all the administrators as well as the principals would be there.

- **Comments from Dr. Ward**

Dr. Ward expressed his thanks for the system and the support that he receives from the county and the Education Committee. He is proud of the things that are being done and the people that are working so hard to make the system the best. The students will benefit from everything being done.

- David Miller wanted to inform the committee that he interviewed Daniel Arnett who is the Engineering Teacher at Hampton. He is a great asset to the county and is a great educator. He also interviewed several students from Central Elementary school and was very impressed with the passion they have for learning. He wanted to publicly praise them.

## **VII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Brown, second by Jerry Proffitt. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20