

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DEC. 2ND, 2019

6:00PM

PRESENT: Charles VonCannon, Jerry Proffitt, Layla Ward, Gary Bailey,
David Miller

ABSENT: Mark Blevins, Nancy Brown, Sonja Culler

CALL TO ORDER: Layla Ward, Chairwoman

ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by David Miller, seconded by Gary Bailey to approve the agenda. By voice roll call vote, the motion carried.

Approval of November Minutes: Motion was made by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Gary Bailey to approve the minutes of the November 2019 meeting. By voice roll call vote, the motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Dr. Ward introduced Ms. Allison Timbs, Homeless coordinator for the County Schools. This is Ms. Timbs second year with the school system and she discussed the services offered by this program. Approximately 80 students are currently listed as homeless. "Homeless" was defined as students who lack a fixed regular nighttime housing, in other words, irregular or unstable housing, families who are currently "doubled up" with another family, and unaccompanied students.

Ms. Timbs informed the committee that once a child has been qualified a "homeless" the McKinney-Vento Act guarantees certain legal rights to these students. They have the right to have their educational needs met, such as immediate enrollment in school, acquiring a birth certificate, acquiring a social security card, acquiring proof of residency and providing transportation to and from school.

She also informed the committee of the "Hope Room" which provides clothes, shoes, hygiene items and food to these students. Things children need to feel good about themselves regardless of their current situation. Ms. Timbs expressed her thanks to local churches and other community agencies, who through donations, have keep the "Hope Room" stocked with an abundance of items to help students. The goal is to make sure these students have what they need to succeed and do well in school.

Ms. Timbs and Dr. Ward then answered questions from committee members.

On motion made by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Gary Bailey and by voice roll call vote, the December meeting was adjourned.

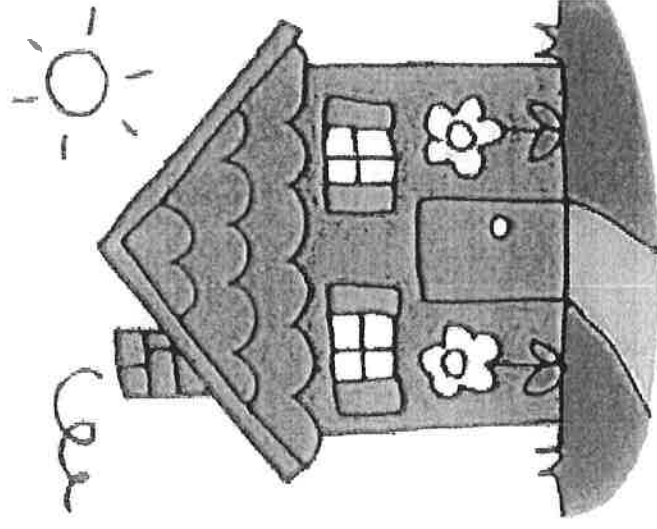
Respectfully Submitted,
Layla Ward, Chairwoman

Ways People Can Help:

- Contact the Student Support Coordinator if you know a family or unaccompanied youth who is in transition.
- Donate school supplies.
- Donate food, hygiene items, and/or new children's clothes.

Carter County Schools

Homeless Education Program
Coordinator: Allison Timbs



Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00-4:00pm

305 Academy Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Who is Considered Homeless?

The McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that a child or youth is considered homeless if he or she "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

Homeless children are those who...

- Temporarily live with a relative or friend because they have nowhere else to go. This is referred to as being "doubled up."
- Live in shelters
- Live in motels, abandoned buildings, tents, cars, campers, or on the streets.
- Run away, leave, or forced to leave their parent's/guardian's home.
- Live in housing not fit for habitation (lack of electricity, running water, or heat).

The McKinney Vento Act states that homeless children and youth must have access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to all other children—including preschool education. Homeless children are guaranteed certain legal rights to ensure this.

Program Services

- Clothing such as daily attire, uniform, or PE requirements.
- Enrollment necessities including birth certificate or immunization records.
- Medical and dental services.
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Counseling and outreach services.
- Extending learning time
- Tutoring services
- GED testing for school age students.
- Food in emergency situations.

Education Rights of Homeless Children and Youth

- The right to immediate enrollment even if lacking school records, immunizations, or birth certificate.
- A homeless child or youth may remain in the school they attended before becoming homeless for the duration of homelessness or end of school year.
- Transportation to and from school of origin.
- Homeless children have the same rights to school programs and services as all children.

