

## EDUCATION MEETING

January 7, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Mark Blevins, Nancy Brown, Austin Jaynes, Ginger Holdren, Gary Bailey, Sonja Culler and Robin McKamey  
ABSENT: None  
CALL TO ORDER: Robin McKamey, Chairwoman  
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

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- Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Austin Jaynes to approve the agenda as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Mark Blevins to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2018, meeting as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Superintendent's Report: As Dr. Ward was absent, Peggy Campbell, Assistant Director of Schools was present in his place. She informed the committee students had used eight (8) snow days so far this year. She said as they stockpile thirteen (13) days only five (5) day were left. She said the board voted to make Martin Luther King's day and President's day a regular school day but, if these extra days were not used, they would be added to the Easter/Spring Break.

At this time Ms. Campbell introduced Jerri Beth Nave, Director of Federal Programs for the school department. She gave a brief background on the Federally funded Homeless Education Program and introduced Allison Timbs, the newly appointed Student Support Coordinator. She informed the committee as to who is considered homeless, education right of homeless children and youth and the services provided by the Homeless Education Program. She said her job as liaison was to seek ways to help these children and their families. She named several charitable organizations and agencies that make much needed contributions to this program such as the Elizabethton Housing Authority, the Public Library, shelters, etc. She stated there were presently forty five (45) students considered homeless in the system. She passed out a pamphlet to the committee members outlining the programs requirements/duties.

- Old Business: Peggy Campbell stated Dr. Ward had been taking sections of the budget and presenting them to the School Board for consideration.

Commissioner Bailey stated he wanted to make the committee aware Dr. Ward had spoken with residents on the Old Lewis Road regarding the school bus traffic sign issue. He said he had scheduled a meeting with the Sheriff's Department and would later contact Supt. Colbaugh for the sign placement.

After Chairwoman McKamey stated she was still interested in visiting every school, motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Austin Jaynes to schedule a field trip to visit Siam and Hunter schools within the next thirty (30) days. By voice roll call vote, motion carried. After discussing a good time for all members, a field trip was set for January 15, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.

- New Business: Mark Blevins introduced Amy Grubb, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Hunter, who informed the committee they wanted to purchase a new digital sign for their school. By fundraising, they had raised all but about \$2,500 of a \$9,500 sign. She said they wanted to put the new sign in a different location and they were looking at sites. She stated the sign would be a tremendous asset for the school and could also be used in emergencies or when school was out or delayed. She said she was not there to ask for help but if any help was out there it would be appreciated.

Chairwoman McKamey recognized School Board Members Danny Ward and Keith Bowers, Sr. present at the meeting. They informed the committee they were having a workshop on January 10, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., inviting anyone interested to attend.

Commissioner Jaynes asked Ms. Campbell where the School Board was in regard to its Five Year Plan and was told there was only one (1) more item to address and that was retaining students/teachers.

Commissioner VonCannon addressed the committee at this time stating the TEA Journal reported some good news for the Tennessee Education System. He said as far as on time graduation we ranked 9<sup>th</sup>, black on time graduation 4<sup>th</sup>, and average ACT score 6<sup>th</sup>. He said according to the TDE, the Carter County School System has 401 teachers and 5048 students, averaging a 12.58 teacher/student ratio. He said the average for the State of Tennessee is 15.69. He further stated, in his opinion, Education Committee and School Board members should be a member of TEA or NEA as they generated the newest data. He also stressed the importance of all students wanting to apply for any type of scholarship to build a solid resume.

On motion by Sonja Culler, seconded by Austin Jaynes, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved for entry:

Suzi Wallace

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Robin McKamey, Chairwoman