

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 4, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Mark Blevins, Charles VonCannon, Austin Jaynes, Ginger Holdren, Gary Bailey, Sonja Culler and Robin McKamey  
ABSENT: Nancy Brown  
CALL TO ORDER: Robin McKamey, Chairwoman  
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

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- Approval of Agenda: On motion by Ginger Holdren, seconded by Austin Jaynes the agenda was approved as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes: On motion by Mark Blevins, seconded by Austin Jaynes the minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Superintendent's Report: On behalf of Dr. Ward, Peggy Campbell, Assistant Director of Schools, reported to the committee they had began their budget process and had one (1) meeting already with one (1) scheduled tomorrow, March 5, 2019.

She stated a copy of the Five (5) Year Strategic Plan adopted by the school department would be handed out to the commissioners at the next regular meeting.

She informed the committee graduation for Cloudland High School and Hampton High School would be Friday night, May 17, 2019, and for Happy Valley High School and Hampton High School, Saturday morning on May 18, 2019.

She stated the school schedule had one (1) day left that could be missed.

She reported the CTE Department was in the process of developing an advanced program of study for the robotics to be placed at Happy Valley High School.

She stated the county schools were lucky there was no more damage than there was during the recent flooding. She said the ball fields at Happy Valley High School got the most damage and they were presently working with the insurance company getting cleanup and repairs scheduled.

She said in an effort to get qualified teachers, they hoping to put in next year's budget funds for on line job applications.

She informed the committee the schools were being checked on everyday to monitor attendance due to widespread illnesses.

She related to the members the workshop for this month was set for March 14, 2019, at the Central Office at 5:30 p.m. and the board meeting would be held on March 21, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Hampton Elementary as there was a large number of students to be recognized and more room was needed.

The Mayor's secretary, Abby Frye, told the committee a copy of the Five (5) Year Strategic Plan would be put in their mail boxes so they would have time to review it before the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

- Old Business: A field trip to visit Hampton High School, Hampton Elementary and Valley Forge Elementary was set for Thursday, March 7, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. Gary Bailey offered the use of a school van and said he would be in the Courthouse parking lot at 10:45 a.m. for any person interested in riding with him.
- New Business: Abby Frye informed the committee Taylor Shanks, a senior at Unaka High School, had been selected as a member of this year's Class of Roan Scholars. She passed out a report on Ms. Shanks' accomplishments and interests in her school, community and church.. She stated the commission had always honored anyone selected as a Roan Scholar from one of our schools by presenting them a resolution. Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Mark Blevins to join with Mayor Barnette and forward a resolution to the full commission honoring Ms. Shanks. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Comments: Mark Blevins told the committee the grand opening for the branch bank teller operation at Unaka High School had taken place and the students seemed interested in taking part in this project. He stated he wanted to bring to their attention the poor condition of the modular units at schools in our county for future consideration. Ms. Culler stated the modular unit situation had been brought before the school board in the past but seemed to fall by the wayside.

Gary Bailey informed the committee of a bill on the House floor which would make County School systems have to appropriate funds to City School systems anytime they do construction/ Capital Projects. He stated he would e-mail the link to the commissioners and asked they make every effort to get as many people as possible to contact their legislators in opposition of the bill.

Charles VonCannon requested the committee entertain the idea of inviting Bert Bach, recently retired from ETSU, to one of their meetings. He said Mr. Bach knew what the university went through when they get high school students that are not ready for college and we needed to know "why" they were not ready. He also passed out an article from the March 3, 2019, Johnson City Press regarding Education Secretary DeVos' proposal to boost funding for charter schools and create vouchers to attend private schools asking that they take time to read it.

Ginger Holdren informed the committee she had signed up with Charles Curtis with CTAS to receive e-mails of all bills to be on the floor at the next assembly. She stated a lot of them pertained to education and she would be glad to e-mail what she had received to the other committee members to review. She stated she was a member of an organization called Alpha Alpha which would be going to meet with teachers and educators from all over the State of Tennessee in Nashville starting the next day. She said on Wednesday they were meeting one on one with the legislators and if any of the committee members had any input or concerns regarding any of these bills, she could try and bring it to their attention at that time.

On motion by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Mark Blevins, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

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Robin McKamey, Chairwoman

## **Taylor Shanks – Roan Scholar**

Taylor was one of eight students selected from more than 100 nominees across Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Western North Carolina as a member of this year's Class of Roan Scholars, a prestigious four-year scholarship program designed to challenge and inspire students to grow and develop as future leaders.

The selection process for the Roan Scholar program at East Tennessee State University is a demanding one that requires nominees to demonstrate a capacity, desire, and drive to be exceptional leaders.

Taylor is a senior at Unaka High School and during her high school career, Taylor has maintained a 4.0 Grade Point Average. She will be one of the Valedictorians of Unaka High School's graduating Class of 2019.

Taylor aspires to be a speech pathologist and open her own practice in East Tennessee. She discovered that passion through several human health services classes in high school.

Taylor is a member of several extracurricular programs at Unaka High School, including Key Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, for which she serves as Vice President.

Taylor also serves as a Student Representative on the District Planning Committee for the Carter County School System.

In addition to her own academic studies at Unaka High School, she serves her school community as a student worker in the Comprehensive Development Curriculum program working with students with special needs.

As a Lady Ranger, Taylor has played varsity softball for four years — helping to lead her team to the state playoffs.

Taylor is active in her church where she serves as the Assistant Choir Director and an Assistant Teacher in the Nursery program. She enjoys singing Christian music and is a member of the singing group Forgiven.

Taylor is also active in her community and is highly involved in a number of community service projects.

Taylor represented the city of Elizabethton at the Knoxville Teen Board.

Her teachers describe her as "Very optimistic when she steps out to start a new challenge."