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Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Education Committee

September 9, 2019 6:00 PM

Members:

Chairwoman Robin McKamey

Austin Jaynes

Mark Blevins

Ginger Holdren

Nancy Brown

Gary Bailey

Charles Von Cannon

Sonja Culler

I. Call to Order

The Education Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Robin McKamey at 5:00 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the September agenda by Austin Jaynes, second by Gary Bailey. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Approval of minutes

There were no minutes from the August meeting available.

IV. Danny McClain – update on On-line academy and Chronic absenteeism

There are 148 students logged in, making progress and doing exactly what they should be doing. with 11/12 applications to be reviewed. Approx. 65/70 students are brand new students coming from home schooling. Other 75/80 are current students or students that have been in the Carter County School System. Chromebooks are going to be given to all students that enroll in the program. The question was asked what happens if the computer is broken or damaged. Mr. McClain stated that he would have a discussion with the student and parents to see what happened to the equipment and if repair or replacement was in order, each student would be given one Chromebook but if he/she stayed in the program for the year the computer is theirs to keep. Austin Jaynes asked the question about replacement of the computers later because of age and being out of date. Mr. McClain stated that there hasn't been much discussion about that, it would be at least a year or two before that would happen. Mr. Jaynes asked what the county receives \$8000 per student and pays out approximately \$2700 per student, including the Chromebook. Mr. VonCannon asked if what enrollment looked like for the year. Mr. McClain told him that that number would be in at tomorrows workshop. Chairwoman McKamey asked if the money made has been earmarked for any project. Mr. McClain stated not necessarily bur he is keeping record of the number of students so he will know what the BEP is for how many students. He explained that the out of state students are enrolled in the Siam Learning Center and will have the ability participate in any program that the county system offers. Mr. McClain also informed the committee that he would be applying for a school number next year. As for the chronic absenteeism the number are, grade - 9-12 - 50% excused / 50% unexcused.

K-8 – 65% excused / 35% unexcused. There are some policies changes that will be talked about at the workshop tomorrow. Need to make it important to the student to be in school.

Mayor Barnett informed the committee that the county has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,000 through the 3-Star program from First Tennessee Development. There is no match to the money. It can be used for the TCAT dual enrollment program, for transportation, tools and does not have to be matched by the county. It is based on student enrollment. Will be shared with the city school system.

Gary Bailey informed the committee that they have gotten a grant (\$280,000) to place internet in the remaining 6 elementary schools. This will be done during the fall break.

V. Old Business

Mr. McClain asked Mr. Holdren to read an email she received from a parent of a student that she had been tutoring in math and moved her home-schooled son to the Carter County on-line academy. The parent praised the program and wanted to thank the people who put this program together. She was so happy that her son was engaged and there were teachers for each subject. She was very excited about the progress her son has been making and wanted to express her gratitude.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Announcement

The next meeting for the Education Committee will be held on October 7 at 6:00 pm

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.