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Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Education Committee Zoom Meeting

December 7, 2020 6:00 PM

Members:

Layla Ward - present

Nancy Brown - present

Mark Tester - present

Jerry Proffitt - present

Mark Blevins - present

Gary Bailey - present

Sonja Culler - present

Kelly Collins - present

I. Call to Order

The Education Committee was called to order by Layla Ward at 6:13 pm. Roll Call shows all members present.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Mark Blevins, second by Gary Bailey. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the November 2020 minutes was made by Sonja Culler, second by Nancy Brown. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Dr. McAbee

Dr. McAbee apologized for missing last month's meeting. He also apologized for sending out the questionnaire to the commissioners last month through another committee and understands that it should have come through this committee first.

a. Inclement Weather

b. COVID-19

Dr. McAbee stated that the teachers and administration were trying to keep the students on track with the virtual learning. They understand how important it is to develop and maintain relationships between the teachers and students.

Mr. Tester informed the committee that he had received a call today complaining that part of the schools were closed, and some were not. He answered by saying that no one is going to have school when there is inclement weather. He also told them that if they needed any other information to contact the school board. Dr. McAbee stated that they could contact him as well with any questions they might have. Mark Blevins asked Dr. McAbee if the testing is required by the state when they are not having in person classes. Dr. McAbee stated that the state dept and Gov. Lee are still trying to say that the systems need to have the students come in to take these tests. The question is, will the student or the system be punished by not having the participation rate needed. They will be working with the legislature and the governor on this. The problem is that some students are not turning in the work that is needed to pass the classes. If they can pass a test at the 9-week mark, they

won't have to take the test. This will be the second chance that some of the kids will need to pass the classes even if they have zeros on the grade book. Mr. Blevins stated that he received an email that it was required to take these tests. And is it all grades or just 11th or 12th grade. Dr. McAbee stated that if a child is already passing, they don't need to take the test. If a student is having trouble and needs it, they will be given the extra chance to pass the class. Dr. McAbee stated that he would investigate it and see what is being distributed. Nancy Brown asked how long he thinks it will be before classes will be in person only. Dr. McAbee informed the committee that he is getting both arguments, that we need to be in school all week and the opposing argument that kids shouldn't be in school at all. He stated that he meets with the Health Department each Thursday and he knows the importance of being in person for some students. If the numbers are low after the Christmas break, he would like to open full force. Ms. Brown asked how many kids are falling through the cracks because they are not in class. Dr. McAbee stated that unfortunately the gap is growing, and they are trying to find ways to help close the gaps. If the county can get more of the CARES money, they will hopefully be able to use that for things like tutoring and other programs that may help close the gap. Mayor Woodby stated that she attended a ballgame at Hampton and stated that everyone was following all the rules with the social distancing and masks.

VI. New Business

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Blevins, second by Gary Bailey. All in favor. The motion unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Crowe