

Minutes of:
Education Committee Zoom Meeting
April 5, 2021 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 6:16 pm. All members present.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Approval of minutes

February and April minutes will be approved at the May meeting.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Update with Dr. McAbee

Dr. McAbee stated that he went to Unaka High School and sat with a class and attended the SKILLS USA awards today and Carter County students received several awards. He stated that there is a lot to brag about in our county.

Update on summer school, 650 K-8 students have signed up. A lot of work has gone into this. We are going to include high school in the summer school plan, he will update.

House Bill 777 looks like will pass soon. This will give funding based on the 2019 enrollment numbers. It looks like enrollment was down across the state by about 35,000 kids this past year. If they pass this bill it will be huge.

Dr. McAbee stated that he was still interested in working with the county on the Workforce Development project. Tennessee College of Applied Technology and Northeast State Community College are still interested as well. The goal is for the kids to be able to graduate high school and have a two-year degree on the same day.

Middle College is an intuitive through the state and Northeast State is one of the ones who has been approved. This is a transfer pathway and by law any 4-year college in the state of Tennessee will have to take any credits they have earned. If they start in their Junior year of high school, if they want to do Middle College, when they graduate high school, they will also graduate with an Associate's degree and then can transfer to a 4-year university in TN. There is also available a \$1000 scholarship per semester. Tuition is roughly \$2000 so this covers about half, he is trying to find a way to help cover those additional fees for students who need.

Mark Tester stated that he would like to make sure that the money that he school system will be receiving is used to the fullest. Also wanted to thank the teachers and the entire system for

doing all they have done during the pandemic. Dr. McAbee thanked him for recognizing the staff and added that from the teachers, aides, bus drivers and cafeteria workers have all been outstanding during the entire situation.

Mark Blevins asked Dr. McAbee if the next school board meeting would be live or by zoom. He answered that the plan is to be live but to live stream the meeting for those who wanted to attend.

Mark Blevins asked how long the summer school program would be. Dr. McAbee stated that it would last a month at the K-8 level. Monday – Thursday would be 6 hours with breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Friday will be a field trip day. With high school it will also be about a month also, but the student will only attend the classes they need. Each day will be about 4 hours. Mr. Blevins asked if it would be drop off and pick up or would there be busses running. Dr. McAbee stated that K-8 will be bussed. If high school students need a ride, they will make sure there is a way for them to attend.

Jerry Proffitt asked if this was going to be publicized in the paper or news. Dr. McAbee stated that he would make sure there was announcements made on the school web page, social media and call all the local news outlets.

Dr. McAbee stated that career counseling will be offered to 8th graders schedule. They have been looking for a career counselor that can be paid out of the Covid money.

Mayor Woodby stated that she has had discussion with other parents, and they are incredibly pleased that the counselors are talking about the tech classes instead of the university path.

Dr. McAbee stated that there are also several grants that will be written for funds to assist in counseling students about career pathways.

Dr. McAbee thanked the committee and the commission for the support for the schools and the things they are trying to accomplish.

VI. New Business
None

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Tester, second by Jerry Proffitt. All in favor. The motion unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Crowe