



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		5:01
All members present?	X		Bill Philips – District 8 resigned last week.
Members attentive?	X		Ms. Buttrees and Dr. Murphy were particularly active in asking pointed questions.
Did members appear to have done their "homework"?	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?	X		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	X		
Adequate opportunity for public input?	X		
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to the public?	X		online
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	X		Handicap access is available, but not obvious. Need to take separate elevator from the general public.

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? Councilmember Bill Philips resigned last week. County Commission will appoint a first interim board member. Public interview scheduled 2/16 at 5 pm. To be voted on 2/27. After that, there will be a vote (primary and general) to fill the seat for the 2-year balance of the term.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Commission Observer(s) may track the replacement process, but, as outlined, it appears to involve open communication and adequate public process.

Other Concerns:

Observer: Stephanie Matheny Meeting: Knox County Board of Education Date: 2/1/10

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair

NOTES:

1. February 1-15 is the general transfer window (excludes No Child Left Behind transfers). Have changed the process to an online application with a post office option. No more race to the school to get a priority position. Transfer procedure is posted at knoxschools.org, including projection of available seats based on allocated staffing level and prior demand. Will maintain a waiting list. Priorities are:
 - a. Teachers transferring their child to the school at which they teach
 - b. Other school district employees
 - c. Entering a magnet school/feeder program
 - d. Project Grad transfers
 - e. Pursuit of a particular academic program
 - f. Siblings
 - g. general
2. Milk Contract – Knox County schools entered a contract with Mayfield dairy with a reduction in cost from the current budget. A competitor, Flavorich, has appealed the decision to award the bid. As a result, Knox County Schools may have to pay up to \$200,000 more for milk next year.
3. School cancellation/delay decision process – Superintendent confers with his colleagues (4:30 am conference call) and law enforcement/Knox County Engineering and looks at National Weather Service forecast. Superintendent makes the call. Dr. Murphy suggested Dr. McIntyre look into adopting alternative snow routes.
4. Discussion of Agenda Items for Wednesday's Board Meeting
 - a. Redirect some stimulus funding from disability-specific programs to broader application to serve all students. This involves approximately \$750,000 to purchase Compass Learning Program/Odyssey for enhanced computer-based learning. There was a successful pilot of this program at Fulton H.S. Students prefer this program to the current system.
 - b. Similar agenda item to reallocate approximately \$3 million. This would move 96 teachers from basic budget to stimulus budget for 2010-2011. They would have to move back to regular budget after those funds are gone.
 - c. Proposal to purchase land at Northshore Town Center to build a new SW Knox County elementary school.
 - i. Potential of 500 student growth in that sector. Board decided in July 2009 to build a new school rather than add to existing schools.
 - ii. Dr. McIntyre recommends this site out of four that were closely scrutinized and put out for public comment. Received about 100 comments from Knox County citizens.
 - iii. Dr. McIntyre stated that this site is located in a student-rich, enrollment dense area with significant future growth. The site is level with access to transportation (Northshore Dr. and Pelissippi Pkwy) and utilities. It offers future flexibility to adjust to enrollment levels. Purchase 5.81 acres for \$1.65 million plus a donation of 9.4

acres. Might be able to do a 1-story building. Closing 10/20 or later to accommodate donation.

- iv. Councilmember Carson says that there are comments that there was not adequate public process, although she thinks that the schools did well. She is concerned about having it too close to A.L. Lotts and Blue Grass Elementary. But, neither PRZ (the 1 mile parental responsibility zone without school-provided transportation) zone overlaps with this site.
 - v. Most aggressive proposed timetable has design funding in FY11 budget and construction in FY12 capital plan. Minimum 24 month construction period. Fall of 2013 at the earliest, more likely fall 2014.
 - vi. Ms. Butree expressed a concern about building for now, and not for the future. Proposed school has a 1,200 student capacity with 1,150 students (approx. 700 from A.L. Lotts and 450 from Farragut) to begin with. This would free up space at nearby schools. But she does not like the idea of opening a school that is already full and thinks the site is too small to allow for future growth.
 - vii. Ms. Buttree expressed concerned about access for parents dropping off their students and about school bus turnaround. Thunderhead Road is a 2-lane road with on-street parking, but that would have to change if the school goes in. The draft budget has a \$250,000 contingency for site preparation plus \$75,000-\$100,000 for road issues.
 - viii. KCS has done geotechnical studies on the site. Did 5 test bores of 25 feet each and did not find rock formations that would have to be excavated. There are no blue line streams or identified sinkholes on the site.
 - ix. The purchase and sale agreement includes contingencies with lengthy time periods. \$10 for the option to purchase. The law department has reviewed the contract.
 - x. Ms. Kincannon likes this site because it does not induce sprawl. Instead, it is within an area where many students already live. This is a mixed-use development, and some future students may even live on-site.
- d.