



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		
All members present?	X		9 of 10 (Mr. Bratton was absent). Ms. Buttrees left towards the end of the Simon Youth Foundation discussion.
Members attentive?	X		
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. There is a security guard who could direct people. Need to take separate elevator from the general public.

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? The Simon Youth Foundation Education Resource Center (ERC) presented proposal regarding a potential nontraditional High School at the Knoxville Center Mall may relate to our Community Schools Position (see notes)

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Determine if the ERC proposal fits our Community School position and identify interested League members to attend related meetings

Other Concerns

Observer: Stephanie Matheny Meeting: Knox County Board of Education Date: 3/1/10

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair

NOTES:

- 1. There was significant attendance by County Commission and City Council.**
- 2. Patrick Richmond was sworn in as the new Board member representing District 8. He was appointed to this position by County Commission until a new member will be elected.**
- 3. Dr. McIntyre discussed the new Safety & Security Review Committee, which now includes a human resources workgroup because of the recent Inskip School shooting. A report is anticipated in late April 2010.**
- 4. A \$19 million gap is anticipated in the 2010-2011 budget cycle, assuming flat revenue. The budget will be designed to minimize impacts on schools, but there will be reductions in the range of 2% in positions at schools. The idea is to make deeper cuts of 5-8% at the central office. Public forums on the school budget are coming up in March.**
- 5. The Simon Youth Foundation Education Resource Center (ERC) gave a presentation regarding a potential nontraditional school at the Knoxville Center Mall for up to 250 high school students who have gotten off-track. This is a national foundation with 25 schools in 12 states serving 2,500 students. The goal is to increase high school graduation rates. They have had a 90% graduation rate since 1998. It would be an extension of public schools, not a private or charter school. The schedules are flexible, with morning and afternoon schedules, to accommodate the need for paid work and to take care of family members. The schools are small with a goal of a 15:1 student teacher ratio. The public schools are responsible for the personnel, equipment (unless it can be donated), 1/3 of the cost for build-out, and utilities. Dr. McIntyre thinks that teachers at the current adult evening school at the Historic Knoxville High School can be split, with some moved over to the ERC to serve traditional high school-aged students. The lease of 6,400 sf would be donated to the schools, an approximately \$200,000 annual in-kind donation. The per pupil cost has been significantly less at the Education Resource Centers. The SYF also provides college scholarships to ERC graduates. Malls have security and job opportunities. It would have direct access to the parking lot. UT may potentially be involved in curriculum enrichment. Knox County Schools have submitted a pre-application to SYF. Dr. McIntyre anticipates a Board vote in April and a capital line item of \$75,000 to be voted on this Wednesday.**
- 6. For Wednesday's board meeting, there is a proposed first reading of a policy for honorary diplomas. This was developed in response to a request by the family of a former Knox County student who was killed in service to his country in Iraq. Ms. Carson and Dr. Murphy.**
- 7. The milk contract was re-bid, with a savings of \$280,000 from current costs.**