



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		5:02
All members present?	X		
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		Anyone wishing to speak to the Board during Public Forum must sign up <b>IN ADVANCE</b> by calling the Board Office at 594-1630, or by signing up with the Board's Vice-Chair or Executive Assistant at the meeting prior to the beginning of the meeting. This Public Forum is open to any educational topic.
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 discussion regarding the siting of the School at the Mall at Knoxville Center Mall is relevant to LWV policy on school siting. The Race to the Top grant is relevant to LWV positions on school funding.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Continue to track school siting issue.

Other Concerns: There has been an appeal of a high school biology textbook based on perceived bias against Christianity. This will be heard at the full Board meeting Wednesday night.

\*See Attached Meeting Notes

Observer: Stephanie Matheny Meeting: Knox County Board of Education Date: 4/5/10

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair

**\*NOTES:**

- 1. Tennessee was one of two national recipients of the Race to the Top, approximately \$500,000,000. Superintendent McIntyre specially recognized the leadership of Governor Bredesen. The scope of work will be developed over the next 90 days or so to provide more details. Knox County can anticipate \$12,000,000-\$14,000,000 over the next four years to fund supplemental efforts to educate our children.**
- 2. The general transfer period has been completed. 433 were approved for transfer out of 1,000 applicants. There had been consideration of having a separate transfer period for Hardin Valley Academy. Right now 300 of 1,700 are there as transfers. This is viewed as an enrollment “bubble” that might work itself out over time.**
- 3. The Great Schools Partnership has received some press coverage. It is designed to raise private dollars to supplement Knox County School budgets. One goal is to facilitate middle school transition – both from grammar school and to high school. Increase our current infrastructure over early literacy. Potential summer program to support English language learners.**
- 4. A recent public forum on the Knoxville Center Mall proposal was held in the last month (see notes from March meeting for details). There will be a vote on this School at the Mall this Wednesday. Ms. Kincannon expressed her impression that the community forums have helped to gain additional support.**
- 5. The Board will also vote on a budget on Wednesday. There have been public meetings about the proposal. The forum was broadcast live and is available for viewing on the school’s website.**
- 6. The Schools have extended the deadline for allowing for teachers to apply for an early retirement incentive in light of the need to eliminate positions in the next year’s budget.**
- 7. The online Superintendent’s report includes a list of non-school land holdings of the Knox County Board of Education.**
- 8. April 16 is the deadline for applications for the next student representative to serve on the Knox County Board of Education.**
- 9. April 10 is the Run for the Schools at the Zoo as a fundraiser that also promotes healthy life styles.**
- 10. The Board will vote on the appointment of hearing officers to hear appeals for dismissal of tenured teachers. The Board would still be the final arbiter, but would make decisions based on the record established by the Hearing Officer.**
- 11. Ms. Kincannon presented a resolution to eliminate split voting precincts for the school board. Commission is considering an ordinance to require this. Ms. Carson and Mr. Anderson expressed concerns about this proposal. Mr. Anderson suggested that the school board and county commission districts should be identical now that there are the same number of districts.**
- 12. The hearing on the textbook will take place Wednesday night. There was a discussion about the procedures to hear this appeal, and concern that there is no pre-established policy of the Board on this. Ms. Kincannon suggested using a suspension appeal model. There was concern about whether it was clear from the outset that the Board would only consider the established record.**
- 13. There was a discussion about the budget, which will be voted upon on Wednesday. The County has identified \$400,000 in additional potential funding for the schools. The Budget would eliminate step increases for all Knox County employees. But, this would be offset by a one-time**

state “bonus,” strategic compensation from the “Race to the Top” program, and general fund increases. This would amount to as much as a \$1,500 per teacher raise. However, these would not be permanent increases. As a result, the proposed budget restores 19 teaching positions, so that only 9 positions would be cut.