



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	x		
All members present?		x	Dr. Dan Murphy was absent
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		.

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? Budget affects retention and recruitment of teachers

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? No

See Attached Notes

Other Concerns:

Observer: Stephanie Matheny Meeting: Knox County Board of Education Date: 6/2/10

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair

NOTES:

1. This was the monthly voting meeting. I was not able to determine from the Board of Education website that the preparatory meeting was held Tuesday, 6-1-10.
2. The Board approved various contracts and the school calendar on unanimous voice votes.
3. Ms. Carson and Ms. Kincannon both questioned the rationale behind selling ice cream in the cafeterias given the high incidence of obesity among our youth. Ms. Carson and Ms. Kincannon asked that the schools look into the issue for next year. It is a lower fat ice cream in a smaller portion size and is a source of calcium. Principals have the choice of not selling, and some cafeteria staff work to ensure that students eat lunch first. It is not a big revenue item.
4. The Board unanimously approved budget amendment that would reduce the number of teacher positions to be eliminated.
 - a. Bob Savery spoke at public forum on the question of the budget as a taxpayer, father of two Knox County students, and a teacher. Wants to reduce the number and salary of central office staff. Superintendent is paid over \$240,000.
 - i. Ms. Kincannon expressed the need to do a better job of explaining central office costs.
 - ii. Ms. Carson referred to a recent Knox County report that found the central office to be understaffed and underpaid. The Board researched superintendent pay carefully when it hired Dr. McIntyre and found it comparable to school districts of similar time.
 - iii. Mr. Anderson also defended central office staff based on level of responsibility and education and experience.
 - iv. Ms. Buttrees noted that criticism is often based on personality. She did think there is some disparity between the superintendent's salary and that of other central office staff. She suggested doing surveys of teachers and central office staff to find out what the perception really is.
 - v. Mr. Bratton argued that the Board made a conscious decision to pay enough to recruit a top level superintendent. He remains upset that County Commission refuses to fully fund schools.
5. Ms. Kincannon's motion to approve parking committee's recommendations to be submitted to County Commission was tabled until the final report is submitted.