



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	x		5:02
All members present?		x	9 of 10 present – student representative missing
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		online
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? Yes - capital improvements at Carter School.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Continue to track Carter School issue at both the Board of Education and County Commission.

Other Concerns:

Observer: Stephanie D. Matheny Meeting: Knox County Board of Education Date: 8/9/10

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair

NOTES:

1. Well-attended meeting – lots of folks with green T-shirts supporting Carter School.
2. Wednesday’s voting meeting will be in the Andrew Johnson Building, not the City/County Building as usual.
3. Superintendent’s Report
 - a. Teachers return tomorrow, students start next Tuesday.
 - b. 6th & 9th Grade student orientations on Monday, 8/16/10
 - c. Ms. Luna and Ms. Brace will return to Inskip Elementary for the school year. There will also be a full-time security officer and the school will keep the social worker at full-time for this school year.
 - d. TN Arts Commission received a \$1 million grant to fund Arts 360, a full school arts integration model. This grant is to expand the model in Knox County Schools.
 - e. The Average Daily M. (student count) for 2009-10 was 55,486 students (increase of 275 students from 2008-09). This may result in more funding.
 - f. Anticipate opening the Education Resource Center at the Knoxville Center Mall shortly after Labor Day. Process for enrollment will be similar to the current “S Team” process. It will be a transfer. The school needs to be named, which will be done through community input, with the final decision by the Board.
 - g. Goal of recruiting more people of color as administrators in the school system.
 - h. Dr. McIntyre received a unanimous request from elementary school principals to stop applying for SACS accreditation, due to being redundant to other programs.
 - i. Dr. Murphy asked about whether this would affect the “brand” of our schools, especially for people from elsewhere.
 - i. State of TN is transitioning to more rigorous standards regarding cut scores, which are thresholds for “proficiency” and “advanced” designations on the TCAP.
 - i. As a result, there have not been established standards for the last year. Knox County Schools will move forward with the school choice process for those schools that could not make adequate yearly progress based on last year’s results, but not for the 4 schools (Bearden Middle, West High, East Knox Elementary, & Spring Hill Elementary) that had the opportunity to be taken off the school choice list. If the final results for these schools are not sufficient when they are released in November, there will be a mid-year school choice process.
 1. Dr. McIntyre said it would be the right thing to do to continue to pay for transportation for current school choice students from those 4 schools during the interim period.
 - ii. It is estimated that approximately 50% fewer students in grades 3-8, and 33% at the high school level, will achieve proficient or advanced status,. “This will be a shock to the system,” said Dr. McIntyre. It will be difficult for students and parents.
 - iii. Schoolwide standards will start at a lower percent proficiency requirement, but with a steep trajectory for improvement. Still have the No Child Left Behind 100% proficiency requirement by 2014.

j. Capital Improvement Plan

- i. Superintendent's memorandum was posted on the website (http://agenda.knoxschools.org/docs/2010/SBW/20100809_65/467_Capital%20Plan%20Carter%20memo%208_9_10E.pdf).**
- ii. County Commission funded full capital budget, except for a dollar amount equivalent to the funding for the Carter school. Community wants a new school, but the current plan that has been approved by the Board is for a renovation. Commission wants the Board to take another hard look at the issue.**
- iii. At Carter, the total project cost for a new school would be about \$13 million, a net increase of approx. \$1 million per year bond service. Dr. McIntyre wrote, "I simply do not believe that the Knox County Schools has the fiscal capacity to take on this additional debt at this time." Renovation budget is \$2.9 million.**
- iv. Recommends re-affirmation of the capital improvement plan with several recommended changes that do not affect the overall budget.**
- v. BOARD DISCUSSION:**
 - 1. Ms. Buttrees asked when this will be on the Board's agenda and whether this even requires another vote.**
 - 2. Ms. Kincannon said it could be placed on the agenda as early as this Wednesday, which Dr. McIntyre recommended. This would satisfy Open Meeting requirements (48 hours prior notice). Dr. McIntyre thinks the Board should vote again because there was no appropriation for the budget and Commission sent it back to the Board.**
 - 3. Ms. Buttrees wondered about the need to rush, given that there will soon be a new Board, a new County Commission, and a new County Mayor.**
 - 4. Mr. Bratton feels that re-voting on this could lead to a train wreck, and that we simply do not have the money for this without taking it out of the classroom.**
 - 5. Mr. Richmond hints that someone will ask for a delay. The Board has voted one way, and the community wants something else. Some of the community members think they are in a position to get more help through other means. Thinks the Board should leave it alone.**
 - 6. Ms. Carson does not want the Board to re-vote on positions every time Commission tells it. But, she thinks the Superintendent needs something from the Board, perhaps a resolution of support for the Superintendent's recommendations.**
 - 7. Mr. Anderson disagrees that Commission has line-item authority over the School Board budget, and thus agrees with Ms. Carson that a resolution, rather than a re-vote, is proper.**
- k. Dr. McIntyre will visit all schools two times in three years.**

4. **Wellness Activity** in recognition of Health, Physical Education and Athletics month.
5. **Discussion of the August 11 regular session agenda:**
 - a. **Ms. Kincannon raised the surplusing of the Oakwood School.**
 - i. **Teacher Supply Depot will move to Cedar Bluff Intermediate School. Ms. Buttrees expressed concern over the lack of space. Dr. McIntyre agreed that the gross square footage is lower, but said that the gymnasium would be available for distribution and that it would be enough space.**
 - ii. **Ms. Kincannon reminded the Board that the County would be the owner and would craft an RFP.**
 - iii. **There is an active resolution of Commission that any net proceeds would come back to the schools**
 - b. **Qualified School Construction Bonds. Dr. McIntyre said they are in the middle of evaluating this program, but it is not necessarily something that the schools should do. There is a 2% state fee. Makes the construction subject to Davis-Bacon wages, which might increase costs.**
 - c. **Austin East Magnet H.S. has not made adequate yearly progress for six years, and is in state reconstitution. Last year, it missed the 95% testing requirement by 3 students. Could be moved into an achievement school district (in effect, a state takeover) unless there is “dramatic student progress.” A Memorandum of Agreement was signed on July 28 with the state adopting a plan and defining dramatic student progress based on: graduation rate, writing assessment, and percent of students tested.**
 - i. **Ms. Buttrees expressed concern that this was addressed in executive session over the summer rather than at the full Board. Wants all options, including closure, to be discussed by the Board before the state comes in and takes it over.**
 - ii. **Mr. Anderson clarified that Austen East is not worse than the other schools, but just a year ahead because it is a Title I school. Suggested a presentation on the success of Project Grad.**
 - iii. **Ms. Buttrees asked for an update of where the other schools are in the process. Dr. McIntyre said the data is not yet available for the last year.**
 - d. **Regarding the agenda item on Roberta Clinton’s tenure, the resolution simply says that the charges, if true, would constitute a basis for termination. She can appeal to a hearing officer.**
6. **Board Forum**
 - a. **Ms. Buttrees asked if bus contracts have been sent out. Was slightly delayed in part due a change in the vendor payment system.**
 - b. **Mr. Stooksbury asked about the cutoff date for committing to retirement this December and get the early notice bonus. Mr. Thomas said the policy is being finalized, likely the last day in August. Right now the policy is 90 working days, which was back in May.**

7. Public Forum

- a. Mr. Tim Tatum spoke on behalf of Carter Elementary. A local pastor/community leader. He would like Carter to have the resources to have a state of the art building to benefit the students. Wants us to become better managers of the public dollars, and look at every school in Knox County. Carter community will expect more to achieve more. Please reconsider and rethink.**