



MAURY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Community Relations Committee Meeting

March 2, 2015

Horace O. Porter School at College Hill

Community Relations Committee Chair Kristin Parker called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Committee members present were as follows:

Kristin Parker, Denny Beaver, Carey Powers, and Jerry Lassiter.

Also present were the following Board Members: David Moore, Jim Pennings, Tommy Dudley, and Jim Morrison.

Carey powers moved to approve the proposed agenda, and Denny Beaver seconded the motion. The proposed Agenda was adopted by the Committee.

Denny Beaver moved to approve the February Committee Minutes, and Carey Powers seconded the motion. The February Committee Minutes were approved.

The committee welcomed Katherine Lewis, President of PTA at Joseph Brown Elementary School. Katherine started at Brown in 2011 and has been involved in the PTA ever since then. She noted that their PTA is small and fluctuating with limited resources. However, she did note that they have steadily grown their PTA account. She serves on the leadership committee and hears a lot about test scores. She feels that teachers are continually trying to push and encourage the low and high performing students. She praised Principal Tina Weatherford for her work ethic and noted that it motivates her to work even harder as a parent. She indicated that in recent years the PTA has been asked to contribute to aesthetic building projects that she believes are more maintenance issues that the Board should assume responsibility. She is concerned about getting parental involvement. She noted that the school has 400 students (including pre-K). However, less than half attend parent teacher conferences and only about 70 attend school literacy nights. She has spoken with Dr. Weatherford about hosting a meeting of elementary PTAs and unit schools' PTAs to discuss some of the problems that each face and discuss ways to solve those issues. Scott Gaines noted that Central Office may be able to help facilitate trainings on parental involvement and also help publicize the events. Mr. Beaver noted that Brown Elementary is very welcoming and that Dr. Weatherford is a special person and excellent leader. Jim Morrison suggested featuring Dr. Weatherford in a video that could be uploaded to our Facebook page. Mr. Beaver and Mr. Moore noted that Brown is not unique in that the work of many is done by a few. However, all were encouraged by the efforts at Brown and the efforts to open the lines of communication. Mrs. Lewis noted that she has worked on a Facebook page for Brown Elementary School and is able to track likes and views. However, she did not think it was as popular as she thought it would be. Jim Morrison suggested getting a copy of the slides from the TSBA Conference presentation on using Facebook to promote schools.

The committee welcomed Gale Moore, Dan Batey, and Roger White to discuss the reception to promote a new Central High School. It was decided that we would hold the reception on March 24th at 6:30 p.m. School Board Members are encouraged to walk through the facility with their county commissioners beginning at 5:30 p.m. Stan Breeden will work with Hewlett Spencer and SSOE to get illustrative renderings of what the school will look like inside. It was encouraged to promote at middle school as well. There is a need for nametags. Mr. White committed to arranging the food. He will also work on coaching the students about areas of need to take visitors. Mr. Batey noted that we have reached critical mass and need everyone to be on board. Mrs.

Moore encouraged promoting it on Facebook and getting the School Board to help as well. The general outline for the event will be as follows:

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Meet in cafeteria for refreshments and to lead commissioners on guided tours of the facility
6:30 p.m. – Presentation: Opening Remarks – Roger White, Video, Hewlett Spencer, Maury Alliance, Student Remarks, and Alma Mater.

The next item discussed was Letter to the Editor. Ms. Martin has prepared a Letter to the Editor regarding Central High School. It will be circulated among committee members for their input.

Two letters to principals and Maury County Teachers Education Association were discussed. After those letters were emailed out, Chairman Morrison sent an email with a memo sent to staff to address “rumors”. Chairman Morrison indicated that he will serve as the spokesperson for the group on these issues and he hopes to field calls from teachers and other concerned staff if necessary. It was suggested that we might want to submit a Letter to the Editor from the entire board, but Chairman Morrison indicated he would do one if that was necessary.

In other New Business, there was discussion about the work session with teachers to be held at H.O. Porter School on March 10th from 5-7 p.m. Mr. Gaines indicated he would secure scribes for each of the discussion rooms.

The binder of clippings of news releases was available at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. after a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Beaver, seconded by Ms. Powers, and approved by the committee.