

Education Committee

April 4, 2011

Welcome and call to order by Chairman Steve Lowrance.

Roll call attendance: Richard Renfro, Joel Street, John Lewis, Charles Von Cannon, Pat Hicks Steve Lowrance, and Sonja Culler.

Others present were Dr. Shirley Ellis, Mayor Humphrey, Jerry McMahan, Mickey Taylor, Keith Church, other interested parties and citizens.

Motion to approve March minutes was made by John Lewis, second by Charles Von Cannon.

New Business

Educate and Grow Scholarship Program-Request for \$25,000 per semester (\$50,000 annually). The program is geared toward helping young people from underprivileged families pay for tuition after all other efforts are exhausted. All surrounding counties participate in the program. Steve Lowrance stated he has contacted Carter County Tomorrow and he will make contact with the City of Elizabethton as well as private sectors in the area to help sponsor the scholarship. The scholarship was previously funded by Mr. and Mrs. Green area citizens.

Mickey Taylor addressed the committee regarding the requirements for high school students' Program of Study. Currently the Medical Care (Health Science) classes are priority. Carter County has Health Science classes at Happy Valley and Unaka High Schools and the classes are available to Hampton and Cloudland students to transport and attend. The Federal Law states only 25 students to a class. While each High School is in the process of registering for next year, Hampton has 56 students who have indicated their choice of Program of Study to be Health Science. We cannot meet the needs of these students with the number of Health Science teachers we have. A list for needs of students would be Health Science Teachers one at Cloudland and one at Hampton. Currently Hampton, Unaka and Happy Valley have 8 CTE (Career Technical Education) teachers. Classrooms are a pressing need for Hampton. While the program needs more teachers, its students have achieved top honors at the state Health Occupations Students of America competition.

Joel Street questioned the number of students at Cloudland seeking Health Science studies; Mr. Taylor stated currently they could not meet the needs of those students with the staff they have. Consideration has been given to closing some under-performing programs to make room for the classes.

Mr. Lowrance assured the School Board Members they have the committee's full support.

Dr. Shirley Ellis - School Director's Report

Dr. Kevin Ward and Phillip Nave are in the process of contacting a second planning group to give a presentation on a School Program Plan. Dr. Ellis stated the School Board may ask the Commission for funds in the near future to cover expenses, depending on allocations from the State.

Committee recessed to travel to Tennessee Technology to tour the school. Upon returning, discussions were held among the committee members. Members were very appreciative to Chairman Lowrance for his leadership and arranging visits to the area schools.

Commissioners also discussed having committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis and/or meeting only when necessary. The next meeting will be May 2 at 10:00am, the committee plans to travel to North East State Community College at that time. Motion to adjourn was made by Sonja Culler, second by Richard Renfro.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Street