



Minutes of:
Education Committee Zoom Meeting
January 4, 2021 6:00 PM

Members:

- Layla Ward - present
Nancy Brown - present
Mark Tester - present
Jerry Proffitt - present
Mark Blevins - present
Gary Bailey - present
Sonja Culler - present
Kelly Collins - present

I. Call to Order

The Education Committee was called to order by Layla Ward at 6:00 pm. All members present.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Mark Blevins, second by Nancy Brown. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the December 2020 minutes was made by Kelly Collins, second by Mark Blevins. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Update with Dr. McAbee

Dr. McAbee stated that at the last board meeting it was decided that this week would be done virtual and then see how everything had been going over Christmas break. He has a meeting with the principals of the county schools to assess the number of cases affecting each school. This will determine if classes will continue to be virtual or hybrid. Chairwoman Ward asked if the hybrid situation is the same as the city system. He stated that it was a different, the county does 50% on Monday and Thursday. Mark Blevins asked if the students who choose to do online continuously would have to go back to the classroom if a hybrid schedule were enacted, or could they continue to stay home and do online. Dr. McAbee stated that they would be able to stay at home if they chose and what fits the family. Dr. McAbee stated that he had received preliminary numbers for the stimulus money that the school system will get in the new stimulus package that was just passed. And they should see some of that money sometime in Mid-January. Ms. Collins asked Dr. McAbee if there were plans for the money. He stated that he is going to put together a meeting with supervisors on Wednesday and then principals and teachers to come up with some ideas where it can best be spent. He stated that he would personally like to see a very robust summer school program with busses and full cafeteria. This would give the extra attention that some students will need for the coming year. If they are behind, they would have the opportunity to catch up. This would also help some families with the childcare situation that so many are struggling with. Gary Bailey stated that they have been working to get everything set up and will be giving out the WIFI hot spots by Wednesday. Dr. McAbee stated that there were 320 devices to hand out and if a home can get cell phone reception, they will be able to get internet. Hopefully, the broadband will go through soon.

Dr. McAbee paused to thank the committee for all the support they give and the work they do. Chairwoman Ward returned the thanks to Dr. McAbee for the work he has done to get the system through the pandemic.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Blevins, second by Nancy Brown. All in favor. The motion unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Crowe