

Education Committee
March 7, 2011

10:00 am

The meeting was called 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 Mayor Humphrey, Dr. Shirley Ellis, Dr. Kevin Ward, Jerry McMahan, Kelly Crain, David Buck, Mickey Taylor, Keith Church, Phillip Nave and other interested parties and citizens.

Correction to last month's minutes, GED Program Funding in the amount of \$550 is a mute point as the funding has been covered by Carter County Tomorrow. Motion to accept minutes of the last meeting was made by John Lewis, second by Richard Renfro.
Motion carried.

New Business

Dr. Shirley Ellis recognized Mr. Keith Church as a new member of the School Board. School Directors Report was given by Dr. Kevin Ward to update the committee on the meeting the School Board had last week with the Planning Consultant out of Knoxville on long-term capital needs. The meeting went well, Tony Street with Beeson, Lusk and Street Architect ask some very informative questions on behalf of the Board. The question was brought up if this group would make recommendations to the School Board, the answer was no. They would provide the information for the Board to use to make their decisions based on data. A second company has been contacted through the TN School Board Association and may be by teleconference since they are out of Kentucky; a presentation by internet is a possibility. A workshop has been scheduled for Monday March 14, 2011.

Old Business

Last month a request was made by Richard Renfro for \$550 for GED Testing. The request was taken to the Work Force Development and was approved for this year. A line item has been created in their Budget and the funds will be available for the GED Program every year.

Career Technical Education Report was given by Mickey Taylor. Taylor stated that in Career and Technical Education we have some wonderful teachers and as our schools are going into competition with other schools across the state some of our students have won state championships in Nashville in the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Competition as well as a runner up and a National Design winner in JTG from Cloudland. This speaks highly of our instructors and students. We have 26 full time Career Technical Instructors in Carter County and an additional 9 Contextual Instructors who teach more than one class. The

Carl Perkins Grant which is Federal Funds from the Government, budget received this year in the amount of \$115,140. Mr. Taylor stated that he has been informed to expect a 10% cut for next year from the Grant. The Perkins Grant has a lot of conditions as to what it can be spent on, most of it is spent on supplies for the teachers. The Cooter Assessment Test is administered to the students to help them zero in on their career interest when planning of their schedules. Taylor presented the group the different programs the schools offered in regards to the Career and Technical classes. Classes offered in one or more of the four county high schools are construction electrical, construction carpentry, business education, design and preconstruction, welding, interactive multimedia, family consumer science and agriculture. Taylor voiced goals of looking at the job market and the labor forecast for the state and our region. As openings occur, try to fit the needs of what the labor market forecast. At this time the labor market shows the importance of the Health and Science areas. Online classes at Hampton and Cloudland High Schools are being discussed; this will remove the need to transport students. Based on Labor Projections for 2016 it is estimated there will be over 70,000 jobs in Health and Science fields in Tennessee, for this area alone 9,200 for Greene, Sullivan, Carter and Washington Counties. Taylor stated we do have articulation with Northeast Technical School and some students are teaming with TTC in many areas. The state has done away with the ability to have a GBT Instructor who can teach carpentry, masonry, electrical and plumber, welding; a certified Instructor is required now for each area.

A moment of silence was observed in respect to Frank Robinson's passing. Mr. Robinson was owner of the Elizabethton Star Newspaper and a one of our most progressive leaders in the community, he will be greatly missed.

The committee recessed and traveled to Unaka High School where they toured some career technical classes. One area visited was the Herbie Adams Meat Science class where students are educated in governmental standards as well as hands on experience of grinding, cutting, and packing various kinds of meat. Other classes visited were the Auto Technology Collision Repair and the Aviation Ground class.

The committee returned and had discussions regarding the trip to the school. Mr. Hicks stated that Mr. Taylor had shared with him the results of a report from the state in which student's state wide who are CTE completers have a four percent higher graduation rate than the average student. Mr. McMahan stated he was highly impressed with the county schools CTE classes. The committee will be visiting other schools in the near future.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sonja Culler, second by John Lewis. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Street