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Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Education Committee

October 7, 2019 6:00 PM

Members:

Mark Blevins

Layla Ward

Nancy Brown

Gary Bailey

Charles Von Cannon

Sonja Culler

Jerry Proffitt

David Miller

I. Call to Order

The Education Committee was called to order by Mark Blevins at 7:20 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the October agenda by Sonja Culler, second by Gary Bailey. The agenda were unanimously approved.

III. Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September meeting by Sonja Culler, second by Nancy Brown. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary

Chair – Sonja Culler nominated Layla Ward, second by Gary Bailey, all in favor. Layla Ward will serve as the Chairwoman for the Education Committee.

Vice Chair – Nancy Brown nominated Gary Bailey, second by Mark Blevins, all in favor. Gary Bailey will serve as the Vice Chair for the Education Committee.

Secretary – Sonja Culler volunteered for the position, all in favor. Sonja Culler will serve as the Secretary for the Education Committee.

V. Kevin Ward

• Dr Nave & Allison Timbs our social worker – progress of our homeless program

Dr. Ward handed out for review the Carter County Schools Annual Report. He highlighted points from the previous year, such as the Level 5 Composite score that the county has obtained. The system has three reward schools, Cloudland Elementary, Valley Forge Elementary and Happy Valley Elementary. There are 8 level 5 schools, 3 level 4 schools. Graduation rate was at 91% and, ACT composite scores average 19.3. This was the second year for the Work Ethic Diplomas went from 42 to 67 seniors who received these diplomas. Students that receive this diploma is given the opportunity to go into the partnering businesses such as Ballad Health, Eastman and Snap-On Tools and are guaranteed an interview. Scholarship money earned last year was \$6.9 million.

The flooding that happened at Happy Valley High School twice last year, is being cleaned up with the help of the road department. The creek is being cleared and will be free flowing. Gary Smith in the EMA office is working with the system to apply for FEMA to help cover the cost above what the insurance is paying. Insurance covered fencing, buildings and lots of equipment but is not going to cover a lot of the topsoil that was washed away.

There are approximately 160 students enrolled in the On-Line Academy. The system is about 20/30 kids short from last years enrollment. Nancy Brown asked about absenteeism and how is it compared to last year. Mr. Ward informed the committee that it was at about half. David Miller asked how absenteeism effects the money received from the state. The county does lose money if absenteeism is high on an average daily basis. Ms. Brown pointed out that the school's grade must be improving with lower absences.

Mayor Barnett and Dr. Ward suggests that the members go up to the Roan Mountain Sub-Station project and look at what the students from Hampton High School have done. They planned, drew and have put the physical work into the project.

Dr. Ward asked if he could bring Social Worker Allison Timbs to speak next month, she was on the agenda for this month, but she had a situation that needed to be taken care of. She can give an update on the Hope Closet that she started and, some of the other things she has done in the system.

Mayor reminded the committee that the school system received the 3 Star Grant in the amount of \$50,000. Dr. Ward said that the money would be used mostly to cover cost for dual enrollment, testing and certifications.

Dr. Ward informed the committee that they will be meeting with RFP to select a broker for insurance evaluations. They are having a workshop on Tuesday October 22 at the Central Office, and a meeting at Valley Forge Elementary on Thursday October 24 at 5:30. If the county system leaves the state insurance, they cannot return for 2 (two) years. They want to possibly take bids in May of 2020.

Dr. Ward wanted to also express gratitude for the support from the Education Committee.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Comments: Committee Members, School Board Members & Public

None

IX. Announcement

None

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Blevins, second by David Miller. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.