

Education Committee  
May 2, 2011

FILED  
05-05, 2011  
MARY GOUGE  
COUNTY CLERK  
Patsy H. Lewis D.C.

Committee Members in attendance:

Steve Lowrance  
Richard Renfro  
John Lewis  
Charles VanCannon  
Joel Street  
Sonja Culler  
Robert Gobble in for Pat Hicks

Absent: Gebe Ritchie

Also attending: Tom Anderson, Work Force Development, President of Carter County  
Tomorrow  
Dr. Shirley Ellis, Director of Schools

Meeting Called to order by Chairman Lowrance

First order of business was to elect a secretary for the committee. Richard Renfro nominated Sonja Culler, second by John Lewis. Vote: all ayes. Richard Renfro volunteers to be Sonja Culler's assistance when she is absent.

Chairman Lowrance explained the secretary duties: take minutes of the meetings; make copies for all members; send copy to Mary Gouge for Commissioner's packets.

Motion was made by Richard Renfro to approve last months minutes, second by Joel Street Vote: All ayes.

Director of Schools report:

Dr Ellis reported the board was working on the school budget. First estimate of BEP funds will be \$435,000 less then last year. The final allocation will be in June. County Schools will close on May 27<sup>th</sup> and will begin August 8, 2011.

CTE programs have been involved with Competitive events; Happy Valley High has had 30 participates in mathematics with approximately 20 winners, with several first place winners.

Testing is either in progress or completed in both the elementary and high schools. Dr. Ellis anticipates an increase in the test scores. The teachers are finishing this year by working on next school year's class standards. All supervisors are visiting the schools on a weekly basic. She reported that Carter County Schools were doing very well at this time.

Charles Van Cannon ask a question relating to last month's discussion concerning classroom space at Hampton High for the Health Science class and made the suggestion that the school board consider the PODs at the Carter County Jail. He was informed by the Chairman and Dr. Ellis that Dr. Ward had been made aware of that possibility and was investigating it, for either classes or storage.

Mr. VonCannon ask Dr. Ellis about recruitment of a Health Science teacher and she reported they were not recruiting at this time but did not see any problems with being able to find a teacher if they needed one.

John Lewis requested information on the BEP funding and what it could be used for. Dr. Ellis explained that it was state funds to be used for teacher salaries and the amount given to the county was based on the student daily membership. With student membership being down this year, it could result in the loss of 10 ½ teaching positions next year. The school system would have to look at teacher retirement and teaching certifications for replacements. School board workshops are being held to look that this situation. She again explained that the BEP funding is based on student membership.

#### Old Business

Number of students interested in Health Science classes at Hampton High and Cloudland High.

Dr. Ellis stated that the number of students interested in these classes had increase a little since our last meeting. She stated this information had been presented to the school board, since this is an area of need for the students.

They are currently looking at program areas that are considered “under” performing. At this time, she reported that she and Mr. Taylor want two health science teachers.

Mr. VonCannon ask about “under” performing classes, Agriculture is one, but Dr. Ellis does not want to lose this class, one area (Agriculture science) is a course students can use for their graduation requirement. But Agriculture is not a popular course. There was a discussion on the hydroponics course being taught at Johnson County High School.

#### New Business

No June meeting of the Education Committee, members will be notified when the next meeting will be and it will be published and posted outside County Court Clerks' office for the public.

Joel Street made the comment that he was not interested in the PODs being used for classroom; he did not want the school system to receive “hand me downs”. Also, that renovations would be extensive.... windows, etc

Meeting recessed to tour Northeast State Elizabethton Campus

#### Northeast;

The Committee was showed a presentation from Greg Walters and Erin Blevins on the Educate and Grow scholarship program. The information showed the committee how many student could benefit from this program to continue their education. Northeast is asking Carter County and Elizabethton City to co-sponsor this award. Mr. Tom Anderson, Workforce Development said he felt like we could get 1/3 of the funding from the private sector, which would bring the amounts to \$10,000 each.

Chairman Lowrance requested that Dr. Keith Young be available to discuss this program with the Carter County Budget Committee, and he would make the arrangements for him on the agenda.

Steve Lowrance made a motion for support by this committee, Charles Von Cannon seconded the motion, but it was pointed out that the committee could not do any official busy while in recess.

Dr. Keith Young gave us a tour of the Northeast State facility.

The committee meeting was reconvened at the courthouse at 11:50 AM

**Board Comments:**

R. Renfro: It was a great visit with wonderful information.

J. Lewis; I was surprised at the good job they are doing at Northeast.

Steve Lowrance made motion of support for the Educate and Grow program

Second by Richard Renfro. Vote- All Ayes.

Educate and Grow program request is \$30, 000

Mr Lowrance reported a pledge of \$10, 000 from Carter County Tomorrow. That would make the request from Carter County \$10, 000 and \$10, 000 from Elizabethton city.

No Public Comments

Respectfully submitted,  
Sonja Culler, Education Committee Secretary