

*****February 25, 2017*****

The Signal Mountain School Viability Committee held a special meeting on Saturday, February, 25, 2017 at 1:00 pm for the purpose of receiving a detailed report and presentation from the Ad-Hoc Group.

Those present were: Mayor Chris J. Howley
Councilmember Amy Speak
CommitteeMember Thomas Peterson
Vice-Chair Tom McCullough
CommitteeMember Amy Wakim
CommitteeMember Susan Speraw
Chair John Friedl
CommitteeMember Melissa Wood

Others in attendance: Ad-Hoc Group member Rob Hensley
Town Manager Boyd Veal
Town Attorney Phillip Noblett
see attached list for others present

Councilmember Amy Speak, who serves as the School Viability Committee Liaison, called the meeting to order.

Presentation

Rob Hensley and Amy Wakim presented the findings of the Ad-Hoc Group. The Ad Hoc Group members were Tom McCullough, Amy Wakim, Bill Leonard, Don Close, Kayse Rigsby, Bill Kennedy, and Rob Hensley.

The information presented included Statutory and Regulatory viability, financial viability, and historical data concerning the operations of Signal Mountain Schools, including the contributions of additional operation and building funds from the Signal Mountain community.

Rob Hensley detailed the steps that would need to occur if the Town of Signal Mountain should decide to pursue this option.

Amy Wakim presented data of how schools in Tennessee are funded, and broke down the revenue stream for a potential Signal Mountain Municipal School District.

The presentation included a hypothetical, preliminary budget based upon the current enrollment, current expenditures, and desired offerings.

A digital presentation document with the specific data from the meeting will be available online.

Discussion

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair person Freidl thanked the Ad Hoc Group for their presentation and opened the floor for questions.

A community member who lives in Signal Forest asked for clarification for the proposed fee of \$250 per student who lives outside of the Town of Signal Mountain. He expressed his displeasure with the idea of these families being required to pay a fee when they currently do not. He also shared his belief that the unincorporated and Walden community members do support the Town of Signal Mountain by buying goods and services from the town's businesses.

Community member Jean Trohanis asked from where the eight bus figure came. Amy Wakim clarified that this number comes directly from the current operations of bussing on the mountain, and the figures include transportation for every student who will attend the potential Signal Mountain Municipal School District from the outlined areas of the mountain. A map was presented earlier that showed specifically what areas currently attend the SMMHS, Nolan, and Thrasher.

Arron Love, a community member from outside the town questioned the Interlocal agreement and necessary actions that would need to be taken by the elected school board. He also expressed his concern that his children would not be permitted to attend in the future due to an increase in enrollment.

Dun Monroe asked if funds follow that student under state law.

Current Hamilton County School Board Member Kathy Lennon asked how the Town can move forward when the town is not including a budget for the building and the land? She took a moment to express her pride in the newly constructed Nolan Elementary addition. The committee responded that the buildings would be a question to be resolved by HCDE, the Town of Signal Mountain, and lawyers.

Without any further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM



John Friedl, Committee Chair



Secretary