

*****Wednesday April 12, 2017*****

The Signal Mountain School Viability Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Those present were: Committee Chair John Friedl
 Committee Vice-Chair Tom McCullough
 Committee Member Thomas Peterson
 Committee Member Amy Wakim
 Committee Member Charles Spencer
 Committee Member Susan Speraw
 Committee Member Melissa Wood

Others in attendance: Mayor Chris Howley
 Town Manager Boyd Veal
 Town Attorney Phillip Noblett
 Council member and committee liaison Amy Speek

Committee Chair John Friedl called the meeting to order and the roll was taken. The agenda called for the approval of the previous meeting minutes. The meeting minutes from March 15, 2017 were corrected for an error in the date. Tom McCullough moved to approve the minutes for February 18, 2017, February, 25, 2017, and March 15, 2017. Thomas Peterson seconded the motion. All those present (Susan Speraw abstained due to absence from a meeting from which minutes were being considered) being in favor, the motion was approved.

John Friedl updated the committee on the Budget Sub-Committee progress. See attachment for the summary. The chairman also took a moment to sincerely thank Dr. McDade and Hamilton County Department of Education for the timely responses to our committee's questions.

The next agenda item called for the scheduling of additional sub-committee work sessions. Susan Speraw volunteered to head the Education Quality sub-committee. Tom McCullough, Melissa Wood, and John Friedl will also serve on this sub-committee. The Buildings sub-committee will be led by Tom McCullough. John Friedl, Amy Wakim, Thomas Peterson, and Melissa Wood will serve on this sub-committee. This committee will look at questions of building capacity, maintenance, long-term deferred maintenance, and capital issues. Mr. Waters, a former HCDE employee has agreed to meet with the sub-committee to share his knowledge of the buildings here in Signal Mountain. John Friedl, Tom McCullough, Charles Spencer, and Susan Speraw will serve on the Legal sub-committee. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend any and all sub-committee meetings.

Amy Wakim, Thomas Peterson, and Melissa Wood will serve on the enrollment sub-committee. After a brief discussion, the committee suggested we seek out the number of new construction permits the county has granted for all of Signal Mountain, including Walden and the unincorporated areas.

The committee briefly discussed how to define "quality" and the need to show "Value-Added" budget line items that contribute to improved quality.

The committee moved on to agenda item six, the discussion of travel plans. Charles Spencer suggested having a committee presentation by a consulting company who has performed viability work for other municipalities who were seeking to create a school to show the Signal Mountain viability committee what types of services they can provide.

Committee members were asked to submit availability dates for the summer months. The committee concluded that finding dates where everyone from the committee can travel may not be possible.

Thomas Peterson gave a brief report on his meeting with a Bartlett administrator. He noted it was too soon to determine if the new district has resulted in academic improvements.

Charles Spencer gave a report on his meetings with the Superintendents of Collierville and Bartlett. Both districts said they would do it again. Local control of the district was a driving factor. They both conveyed they have no remorse for the decision to become a municipal district.

In other business, the committee briefly addressed how we would be communicating with the community and getting information to the community, specifically in the answering of questions from the community submitted via the Town website.

We expressed the need to make the community aware that we are diligently working on answering questions. Phil Noblett suggested we quickly get documents posted on the town website.

Amy Speek addressed the committee on her desire to better communicate to the community on their submitted questions. We also decided to post the previously submitted questions on the Town website so community members would know what questions have already been submitted. Amy Wakim and Tom McCullough defined additional questions for the committee to address.

Since the next regularly scheduled meeting is only one week away, the committee decided to cancel that meeting and use the evening of April 19, 2017 for sub-committee meetings to take place. Both the quality and enrollment committees will meet. Times to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.



JOHN FRIEDL, COMMITTEE CHAIR



MELISSA WOOD, SECRETARY