

*****Wednesday, May 3, 2017*****

The Signal Mountain School Viability Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 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 Attorney Phillip Noblett

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. Thomas Peterson moved to approve the minutes for April 12, 2017. Amy Wakim seconded the motion. All those in attendance being in favor, the motion carried.

Amy Wakim presented a report about the work completed by the Budget Subcommittee.

Chairman Friedl again thanked Dr. McDade and HCDE for their cooperation and quick thorough responses to our questions.

Dr. Friedl also explained the process the Budget Subcommittee used to create our Viability Budget. He shared that the committee anticipates needing two more meetings at a later date to complete its work once we have all the responses from HCDE.

Dr. Friedl gave a brief summary of what he learned about BEP from these meetings. Tom McCullough also provided additional information about the subcommittee's work. Charles Spencer commented on the importance of seeing this process as much more than simply a budget decision. He emphasized the importance of local control and cited the historical efforts made by the citizens on the mountain to financially contribute to the schools including building the new middle/high and MEF.

Mayor Howley shared that he thanked Dr. Kelly for the efforts made by HCDE in responding to our requests.

Thomas Peterson presented the work from the demographic subcommittee. He explained some of the key findings and pointed to a few important data points.

Susan Speraw presented a summary of the Quality Subcommittee meeting. She shared the subcommittee's desire to engage the community on how each stakeholder group defines quality. She also brought to the committee's attention some concerns among current employees because of the rumors in the community. Additional discussion amongst committee members occurred. We concluded that posting additional information on the town website will help address the communication issues.

Tom McCullough presented a report from the Buildings Subcommittee and detailed the information provided by former HCDE employee Gary Waters.

Charles Spencer reported his findings from a meeting with the Superintendent of Arlington Schools. He also met with SES consultants and shared their concerns about the complexities of the BEP calculations. He further expressed the importance of all committee members going to Memphis and getting a first-hand account of what has occurred in Shelby County.

The committee then moved on to discussing the future Subcommittee meetings.

John Friedl reported on the additional questions submitted on the town website. We concluded the meeting by having each member share his or her thoughts on the work of this committee to date.

The committee briefly discussed the process for how we will answer the questions from the community. Answers to the questions will be provided on the town's website as the responses are discussed and properly vetted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.


JOHN FRIEDL, COMMITTEE CHAIR

MELISSA WOOD, SECRETARY

