

The McMinn County Board of Commissioners met in Special Called Session on Monday, February 19, 2007, at 7:00 pm, in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Crews.

2. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Jack Powers.

3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Dale Holbrook.

4. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Clerk Evonne Hoback, as recorded:

Scott Curtis – Present
Dale Holbrook – Present
Jeannie King – Present
Roger Masingale – Present
Gary Mason – Present
Jerry Millsaps – Present
Bob Powers – Present
Jack Powers – Present
Tad Simpson – Present
Chairman David Crews – Present

5. INTERVIEWS FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Chairman Crews said that each candidate would be interviewed and the other candidates will leave the room during this process. Chairman Crews asked each candidate to introduce themselves and discuss their background and qualifications, to be followed by any questions from the Commission. The County Commission was also provided a resume for each candidate.

A. Mr. Mike Gentry.

Mr. Mike Gentry, a retired teacher with 31 years experience, said he retired because of vision problems, but added that these problems have since been corrected. Mr. Gentry has a bachelor's and master's degree as well as many hours of additional education in curriculum administration. Mr. Gentry said he feels the operation of the school system is a business – the business of educating students. He said he has had experience managing other people's money as a member of a teachers credit union board. He also said he is someone who asks questions and he knows the importance of working well with the County Commission. He also discussed changes that the Governor of Tennessee is making in the curriculum requirements, i.e. two years of a foreign language, as well as an additional science and an additional math credit which will impact electives like drivers education and vocational classes. Mr. Gentry said he would like to be part of the process of change so that our students will be able to still take these elective classes and mentioned his earlier experience in beginning the course that is now called Career Management Success. Because of time limitations, Mr. Gentry was asked to summarize his thoughts and he said we need to retain teachers and staff, work on grants, start an after school tutoring program and better prepare our students. If elected, he said he would be a hands-on type of board member, i.e. he would be visiting the schools, asking questions, and be willing to work with all groups involved.

B. Ms. Melinda King.

Ms. Melinda King thanked the McMinn County School Board and the McMinn County Commission for the opportunity to apply for this position. She is a graduate of Central High School, Cleveland State Community College and Pellissippi State Community College. As a mother of five children who will attend both Englewood School and McMinn Central High School, the standard of education in our school system is very important to her. She wants to do what she can to support the teachers in educating our children. Ms. King said her past experience of working as a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) officer has really helped her to understand the bigger picture such as appropriate funding to provide the extra benefits of education, i.e., computers, library books, as well as art and music supplies to further their education. Ms. King has been and continues to be willing to put forth the time and effort needed to do what I can to make sure that our children have what they need to successfully move on to their next level of education. Ms. King also said it has been a privilege for her to serve on the McMinn County Education Foundation and asked the Commission for the opportunity to serve on the school board.

C. Mr. Fred C. Hicks.

Mr. Fred Hicks referred to his resume which he said states pretty well why he is qualified for this position. Mr. Hicks is a graduate of Englewood High School and holds degrees from Hiwassee College, Tennessee Wesleyan College and the University of Tennessee where he has an educational specialist degree in administration and supervision. Mr. Hicks is a former teacher and principal in the county school system and served eight years on the County Commission. He is also a former assistant to the Highway Commissioner Randall Moss and presently serves as a part-time assistant to Mr. Moss. Mr. Hicks added that there will be no political factions influencing him regarding how he votes for the students of McMinn County.

D. Mr. Trendel Hodges.

Mr. Trendel Hodges said he is a life-long resident of McMinn County and he wants our students to have a safe place to go to school and he wants them to have the tools needed to learn and develop. Mr. Hodges attended Riceville Elementary and McMinn County High School. He said he played sports and coached baseball with the youth programs within the county. He has two children who attended county schools and graduated with honors from McMinn County High School. Mr. Hodges is currently maintenance supervisor of Olin Chemicals and he said that his job expertise would be very helpful in understanding what is needed in the maintenance of our school buildings. Mr. Hodges said he would be a positive influence on the school board and he feels that he has the knowledge and interests that will be a benefit to our school system.

E. Mr. Steve Miller.

Mr. Steve Miller said he doesn't have an agenda except that in looking out for the best interest of his two children, he would be looking out for the best interests of all children in the county. Mr. Miller is a 1982 graduate of McMinn County High School and he wants to pay the county back for the education he received and for the opportunity of living in the county all his life. He would like to be a part of the growth and success we have seen in our school system and he is willing to make decisions for the betterment of our students and teachers. Mr. Miller is a firm believer in public education because he believes it offers opportunity for all children no matter what the background or economic status. In response to a question from Commissioner Millsaps, Mr. Steve Miller said that he had earlier withdrawn his name because he wasn't sure he would have the time needed to devote to this position, but if he is appointed, he is committed to do the best he can.

F. Ms. Cathy E. Richeson.

Ms. Cathy Richeson said she served on the McMinn County School Board from 1984-2000 but health reasons caused her not to run again. Ms. Richeson said her health has greatly improved and she would love to be part of the children's development again. Ms. Richeson is a graduate of McMinn Central High School and holds a bachelor's degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College.

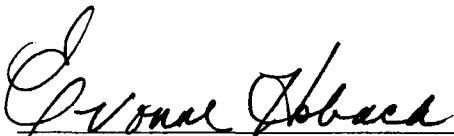
G. Mr. Michael T. Williams.

Mr. Michael T. Williams said he has spent the last thirty years managing people and resources and in that process he feels he has learned a few things. He said has learned in general that people care about what they do and they like to perform in a way that is expected of them. If we give them the proper tools and the training, they will accomplish those tasks that are assigned to them. It is a matter of having a vision of what is required and listening to their needs, setting forth goals and then measuring results. Mr. Williams is a graduate of Central High School and a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in mathematics/data processing. He said that experience is a great teacher and added that he has been blessed with a lot of opportunity to learn and he would like to use his education and experience on the school board.

After all the candidates came back to this meeting, Chairman Crews explained that this would be voted on during the Regular Session of the County Commission, immediately following this Special Call Session. Chairman Crews said that the State mandates certain training for school board members and he ascertained that all the candidates would be available for training if appointed. Chairman Crews thanked everyone and added that this will be a tough decision as he felt they were all very highly qualified.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chairman Crews declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.



EVONNE HOBACK
McMinn County Clerk

Attest:

jb 3-9-07
Deputy Clerk (date)