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Board of Education Approves Two Superintendent Candidates

By Pete Gawda

With little discussion at their meeting on Wednesday evening the Knox County Board of Education readily approved Knox County Assistant Superintendent Bob Thomas and current Hamblen County Superintendent Dale Lynch for consideration for superintendent. But it seems some board members felt

there should be a third choice.

Search committee chair Amber Rountree said the previous day her committee reviewed the six finalists in alphabetical order and looked at their good qualities. She said they looked particularly at their experience in managing a large number of personnel and in planning large budgets.

She said both finalists met those two requirements and both have extensive experience in public education.

Board member Terry Hill first brought up the idea of a third candidate, beginning a lengthy discussion. She said she became concerned when this unnamed third candidate was rejected in the previous day's

search committee meeting. "Eliminating this candidate may not be in the best interest of the board." She did not want any perception the committee was not transparent and fair. While she and several other speakers did not mention a name, it soon became obvious who they were taking about.

It was search committee

member Tony Norman who first mentioned the name, Jon Rysewyk.

"I just don't feel comfortable with him as our superintendent at this time," Norman said of Rysewyk, adding, "He is a great guy. I like him."

Gloria Deathridge said Rysewyk met all the criteria established by the board for superintendent

candidates.

Rountree said the committee thought it would be an ideal situation for Rysewyk to continue in his present position as interim chief academic officer. She added that he has the qualities to be a superintendent one day.

As for the number of personnel supervised Hill said

Cont. on page 4

County Commission

Commission honors Jack Huddleston



Former Commissioner Jack Huddleston was honored last week by the Knox County Commission for his public service and securing funding for a much needed traffic light in the Gibbs Community. Huddleston and his wife, Joyce, were joined during the presentation by Commissioner David Wright, right.

Closing of Lovelace Road Denied

By Mike Steely
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What began as a plea from residents near the end of Lovelace Road, which dead-ends at Melton Hill Lake, ended last week when the Knox County Commission voted unanimously to leave the narrow road open to the public.

Some residents have complained about illegal behavior and disturbances near the end of the road. Other area residents said they needed the road to remain open so they could access the lake and launch their boats. If closed the nearest boat launch would have been miles away from the neighborhood.

The requested closure, some 1300 feet of road before its ending at the lake, was denied primarily because the Tennessee Valley Authority owns the adjacent land and probably half of the roadway.

Commissioner Brad Anders

made the motion to deny and Commissioner Hugh Nystrom noted that TVA would have to approve any closure of the route.

State Bills

The commissioners also discussed several pieces of legislation that are being introduced in the state house and senate.

Commissioner Charles Busler mentioned a bill regulating Bed and Breakfast lodging that would prohibit local governments from taxing that growing temporary lodging business.

"The state wants to control it and it should be local zoning in our own county," Busler said.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker said that Senator Becky Duncan Massey has a bill that would require a special Red Bar imprinted differently on driver licenses issued to people too young to buy beer. Massey's bill would require under-age drivers

to be given a license printed vertically with a red bar across the edge.

Schoonmaker also complained that the current Presidential Primary ballots used in Knox County should have the party candidates first, all the other candidates below that and the selection of presidential convention delegates at the bottom. Schoonmaker suggested that some people may not want to select delegates.

Chairman David Wright noted that Senator Richard Briggs has introduced a bill that would create a Domestic Abuse Magistrate for Knox County.

The Manor

Teresa Lawson, Supportive Services Coordinator for The Manor at Northgate, spoke to the county commission last week about affordable independent living for disadvantaged senior citizens. The Manor at

Northgate is unique to Knox County in that the "high rise" apartment complex at 4301 Whittle Springs Road supplies living for seniors 60 and older who cannot afford to live elsewhere. Lawson said The Manor, part of KCDC housing, is the only such program in the state.

She said that more than 10,000 people will turn 65 every day and that although the facility only charges 30% of an individual's monthly income, some residents can't afford that amount.

"I just want to make sure you are aware of us and don't forget about us," Lawson said.

Commissioner Michelle Carlinger recognized The Manor's effort and said that several other groups, including the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association, help out there.

School system announces proposed rezoning plan

By Pete Gawda

The long-awaited preliminary school rezoning plan is now available for public comment. Not only does the plan set attendance zones for the new Hardin Valley and Gibbs middle schools, it also adjusts the zones for Farragut, Karns, Holston, Carter, Vine and South-Doyle Middle Schools.

At least two school board members expressed approval of the proposed rezoning shortly after it was announced.

"It is clear Knox County Schools made a good faith effort to listen to the people," was the opinion of Terry Hill, whose district includes Ball Camp Elementary School, Hardin Valley Elementary School and Hardin Valley Academy.

Gloria Deathridge, whose district includes Holston Middle School and Vine Middle Magnet, said she has received no negative comments on the proposed zoning. She was especially pleased that some long bus rides have been eliminated.

The new Hardin Valley Middle School zone would include all of the existing Hardin Valley Elementary zone and a portion of Ball Camp Elementary zone east of Pellissippi Parkway and north of Lovell Road. It would also include all the current Farragut Middle School zone north of I-40, west of Pellissippi Parkway, north of Kingston Pike and east of Lovell Road.

The new Hardin Valley Middle School would have an estimated enrollment of 850. Farragut Middle School enrollment is projected to drop from 1,436 to 1,300.

About 500 students in the current Gibbs and Corryton Elementary School zones would go to the new Gibbs Middle School.

One of the major concerns expressed by parents at the public forums, students crossing a river twice daily on school buses, was addressed.

Most students who live north of the Tennessee River and are currently zoned to South-Doyle Middle would be rezoned to attend Vine Middle School. Parts of the current Carter and Holston Middle School zones would also be rezoned to

Continued on page 2



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