



PHOTOS BY PETE GAWDA

Students, parents and interested citizens lined up to tour the newly constructed Gibbs Middle School during Eagle Fest, the grand opening of the school which was held on Friday, Aug. 3

Eagles of all ages flock to Gibbs Middle celebration

By Pete Gawda

Since the eagle is the mascot of the new Gibbs Middle School, it was only appropriate that a real, live eagle be the featured guest at Eagle Fest, the grand opening celebration of the newly constructed school.

Mr. Lincoln, a bald eagle, was the star of the event which was held on Friday, August 3. The new school is located at 7625 Tazewell Pike, near Gibbs High School. Eagle Fest was a fun occasion because, in addition to Mr. Lincoln, there was music, food trucks, and booths representing various campus organizations and local businesses and churches, as well as tours of the new



Mr. Lincoln is handled by Spencer Williams of the American Eagle Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting the eagle and other birds of prey.

All nine representatives attended Wednesday's Knox County Board of Education work session, as was Hannah Selph, the student representative. Chairwoman Patti Bounds began the meeting by reporting a few changes to the annual calendar: the Tuesday, October 16, 2018 school board meeting has been changed to Wednesday, October 17, 2018 and a November 14, 2018 meeting has been added. On September 5, 2018, there will be a special called meeting of the board where a new chairperson and vice chairperson will be elected. The new board will assume their duties on September 12, 2018. Bounds concluded her remarks by welcoming all the teachers back as August 1 was the first day of the school year for teachers.

Ninth District Representative Amber Rountree made a motion to add a discussion about prekindergarten and kindergarten evaluation

changes to the curriculum of Knoxville Adaptive Education Center. Thomas announced that August 7, 2018 will be Student Orientation Day for sixth and ninth graders at their respective schools. Lastly, Mr. Thomas welcomed, in advance, all students back to school on August 8, 2018.

The next item to be addressed was Rountree's addition to the agenda regarding Kindergarten Portfolio Assessment. Rountree identified an evaluation system used by the State of Tennessee as "flawed." This is unfortunate for our teachers, stated Rountree and requested that Superintendent Thomas write a firmly worded letter to the Tennessee Board of Education or to Candace McQueen pointing out the unfairness of the scoring procedures.

Eighth District Representative Mike McMillan expressed stronger feelings than some of the other representatives.