

Tennessee's governor.

Houston resigned as our state's governor and joined fellow East Tennesseans in the Texas Independence effort in their war with Mexico. After becoming a Texas military leader he was chosen twice as president of the Republic of Texas.

So, in a sense, Sam Houston was a president.

The unique history of Houston, like so many East Tennesseans with wanderlust, is complicated and fascinating. Many people don't realize that the man lived long enough to not only serve in the early Tennessee militia but also to serve as Texas governor where he opposed the state's effort to join the Confederacy. His efforts failed and his son served in the rebel army. Houston died in 1863 as that war was still underway.

"Sam Houston's Quest"

On his last trip as governor to Knox County, Governor Bill Lee discussed expanding access to vocational, technical, and agricultural Career Technical Education (CTE) programs for high school students throughout the state at a roundtable discussion held at South-Doyle High School last

won (QVLE) initiative, Gov. Lee wants to increase state funded dual-enrollment credits by two for students enrolled in vocational, technical, agricultural courses, and launch new CTE programs in 25 school districts.

Prior to meeting with Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Superintendent

of Commerce Exec. V.P. Rhonda Rice, Knox County School CTE Director Dr. Keith Wilson, and other industry leaders at the roundtable, the governor toured three CTE classrooms. He congratulated South-Doyle High for its vocational career programs after talking with students in the

ing classes.  
"We need to be reminded that we are here for the children, for the future of these kids. That's why we are engaged in this," Gov. Lee said with passion.

Other topics discussed during

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# New special education teachers may get \$7,000 bonus



**By Mike Steely**  
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The Knox County Board of Education breezed through everything on their agenda during the regular monthly meeting Wednesday afternoon until it came to the approval of a three-year bonus plan for new special education teachers.

The "Pilot Recruitment Incentive Plan" discussion saw some serious questions. Currently, new special

would make a \$3,000 bonus the first year and \$2,000 for year two and year three.

BOE member Mike McMillan asked what would happen if the new incentive plan is not adopted and the reply was that outside contractors would need to be hired. Those could cost \$85 to \$105 per hour.

McMillan said the system may be looking to "throw money" at resolving the problem.