



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Tennessee Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn visited South Knoxville Elementary School last week. She spoke at the school's graduation and had a question-and-answer session with third and fourth grade girls at the school's library Wednesday morning.

Penny Schwinn visits South Knoxville Elementary

By Ken Lay

Tennessee Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn made a stop in Knoxville Wednesday morning and came to South Knoxville Elementary School.

Her stay was brief but the morning was busy for Schwinn, who gave the opening remarks at the school's fifth-grade graduation.

Following her time at that ceremony, Schwinn went to the school's library where she was greeted by a

trip and she felt the 30-minute question-and-answer session was a bit brief. She left her email address with South Knoxville principal Tana Nicely so the students could email her over the summer break.

"I go to schools every day but I don't get to Knoxville as much as I would like," Schwinn said before heading to catch a plane back to Nashville. "I'm excited to be here and to visit with these girls."

Schwinn, a graduate of the Univer-

sity of Tennessee at Knoxville, said,

"My aunts told me that I should come and see a baby being born and I saw it and decided that I wanted to work with children once they were out. I have two young girls and I wanted to prove that I could be a teacher and a mother. I wanted to be a commissioner because I wanted to do more to help teachers because we don't pay teachers enough money."

Nicely was excited to have Schwinn make a visit to South Knoxville.

What is a majority in the upcoming city election?

By Mike Steely
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According to the Knox County Election Commission the race for mayor, with several candidates on the ballot, could be decided in the primary election. The victory would be hard to come by because the rules say "any candidate for mayor receiving a majority of all the votes cast for the office of mayor in the primary shall be declared elected without the necessity of a runoff."

Does that mean 51% or does it mean a simple majority? The Focus asked Cliff Rodgers,

write-in candidates.

Cliff Rodgers told The Focus that "majority" in the election means 50% plus one vote.

Rodgers also said that potential candidate Mike Chase, a Knoxville restaurateur, picked up a petition the week of the deadline and returned it with 43 names. Rodgers said that he called Chase and urged him to pick up another petition because only 22 of the names qualified to vote in the city election. Rodgers said many of those signing the Chase petition were county residents or didn't live in a correct pre-