

Minutes of July 11, 2018 EAC meeting.

Members present: Hank Burch, Robin Coleman, Colby Cooper, Elizabeth Hammock, Hill Robinson, Ken Cole

Guests: Mayor Karin Wilson, Council members Kevin Boone, Robert Brown, Jack Burrell, Jimmy Conyers, Principal Carol Broughton, Principal Julie Pierce, Gary Gover, James Watkins

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:30.
2. Motion to approve minutes of June 6 meeting made, seconded and approved.
3. Ken reviewed the three options recommended by the Akribos Study that the City Council chose for further review in terms of the City's supplemental financial support for our five schools. The first, maintaining the current formula, was thought to be inadequate when faced with the growth demands on school resources. The second, creating a Fairhope City School System, lacked support from both the City side and the County schools side. The third, creating a special School Tax District for the exclusive benefit of the schools within our feeder pattern, was supported by the Mayor and Council members present, as well as the County School administration. In fact, Superintendent Tyler has already taken the necessary steps to create the tax district, so the mechanism exists. Funding would come from a property tax increase which requires voter approval. The Alabama Constitution allows for an increase of up to 6 mills, and current estimates suggest the value of 1 mill in this special district would be approximately \$650,000.
4. An increase of 3 mills was discussed, as was a smaller increase of 1 mill concurrent with the possibility of increased contributions from the City. No recommendations were solicited or made by the committee, as we're only gathering information at this point. The committee, however, is of the opinion that any proposal for a property tax increase would need the support of City leadership. While those City officials in attendance voiced general support of a public referendum to decide the issue, they stopped short of endorsing any increase at this time.
5. It was agreed that the committee would confer with school leadership in order to clarify and articulate a rationale for requesting the additional tax revenue deemed necessary to advance academic achievement to the point of elevating our schools into the top ten systems statewide.
6. With no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45.
7. The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 Wednesday, August 1 at the library.