

Fairhope Public Schools Commission
October 4, 2023
Fairhope West Elementary School

Members present: Paul Hannon, Carrie Mackey, Carrie McLemore, Danielle Mashburn-Myrick, Hill Robinson, Miranda Schrubbe

Members absent: Joe Kelley, Shaunda Matthews

Principals present: Christina Stacey - Fairhope East Elementary; Jenny Breazeale, Caroline Hollowell - Fairhope West Elementary; Tonya Harrelson— J. Larry Newton Elementary; Jon Cardwell – Fairhope High

City of Fairhope: Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Corey Martin

Guests: Gary Gover, Cynthia Rush, Freya Sonenstein

P. J. Hannon called the meeting to order and the September 7th minutes were approved.

Mayor Sullivan addressed the commission about ways the city could help increase the public's awareness of the work of the commission and the impact of the 3-mill tax on the schools in the Fairhope feeder pattern. She will have an insert created for the city's March newsletter focusing on this; also, principals at each school can email this document to all parents. Each principal will be invited to come to a city council work sessions to share what is happening at their respective schools; a representative of the commission can also be included in the rotation. There was discussion about other ways principals can communicate through their social media posts.

To fill the current vacancy on the commission left by Amy Foley's resignation, P. J. Hannon brought forward the application of David Johnson. Dr. Johnson is a local family medicine physician and has children attending Fairhope schools. He would serve the remainder of the term vacated by Amy's resignation, which ends December 31st, and will be eligible for appointment to a full 3-year term starting in January. Carrie McLemore made a motion to accept the nomination and Hill Robinson seconded; motion passed. Another position will be open in January with the completion of Hill's 2nd term on December 31st.

Jon Cardwell shared that John Wilson has asked that a timeline be established for annual funding requests and approvals, to be followed each year. The principals will consider the best schedule in light of hiring and timing of BOE approvals, and will recommend a schedule to be adopted in the near future.

City Councilman Corey Martin asked for consideration and discussion of introducing a mental health curriculum, particularly at the secondary level, implemented by the school social workers. There was robust discussion of what is already in place, how this might work, limitations, etc. Jon Cardwell will look into creating a professional learning community for all of the Fairhope school social workers where the need for this could be considered and ideas developed.

