

Mount Vernon
Signal
Mount
Vernon, KY
Circ. 5616
From Page:
1
1/12/2012
70214



marily comes from the dif- for a 25c per hour raise for pay for one deputy and

182 School board turns thumbs down on smoking ban motion

After taking care of some beginning of the year chores, such as re-electing Martin Vanzant as Chairman of, along with Tina Hasty as vice-chairman and keeping the second Tuesday of each month as their regular meeting date, except at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., the board took up the issue of a no tobacco ban on all school property, including vehicles.

The measure, as drafted for presentation to the board, would have prohibited smoke breaks for personnel during the school day but would have provided for designated areas at athletic events.

Four of the five board members expressed opposition to the ban, including Mike Burdette who said he didn't feel it was right to tell an adult they cannot use a legal product on grounds their taxes pay for.

Vice Chairman Tina Hasty expressed the opinion that the ban might be put off with employees told that it was coming in two or three years. However, Vanzant said he felt this was just "postponing the inevitable."

Board member Angela Stallsworth-Mink said she did not think it was right to "take something from them (teachers)" since they can't leave school during the day

except for designated reasons, such as business, illness, etc. "Who are we to tell people they can't smoke," she asked.

Vanzant told members that the board was well within their rights to establish the ban. "GE in Louisville made their grounds smoke free as of January 1st," Vanzant said. Supt. Larry Hammond put forth the argument that research has shown that second and even third hand smoke can be harmful to students.

Vanzant asked for a motion to pass the no tobacco policy but none was forth-

(Cont. to A7)



Mount Vernon
Signal
Mount
Vernon, KY
Circ. 5616
From Page:
2
1/12/2012
70214

www.marvencowensjournal.com

“Smoking”

(Cont. from front)

coming. He then made the motion himself but it died for lack of a second.

The board then went on

to discuss finances and Finance Director Melanie Lyons presented a financial report to the board showing a cash balance of \$1.7 million in the general fund and 10-11% of the budget in a contingency fund. The board is required to keep 2% in this fund but Supt. Hammond told the board that some school districts with only the required 2% have been facing difficulties with recent budget cuts to school districts from the state.

As to those cuts, Lyons told the board that the state recently told districts that SEEK (student education excellence in Kentucky) funds would be cut by \$366,200 in the January to July period of this year. This follows a cut of \$310,000 the districts had already absorbed last year. And, Lyons added, the board will be losing \$800,000 in stimulus money they received which

was used to pay the salaries of 13 certified and classified workers (mostly certified). “Without those funds, there would have had to be layoffs,” Lyons said.

The board presently has a 20-1 student/teacher ratio, one of the lowest in the state, but that may have to change, Lyons said. And, she said even without pay increases, the budget for salaries has to be increased because of rising retirement costs and increment raises mandated.

“The 2013 budget will give us a true picture of where we stand financially,” Lyons told the board.

Chairman Vanzant reminded the board that the first joint meeting of the board and the superintendent screening committee is set for Wednesday, February 1st. To date there have been four applications for the position.

The February 1st meeting is the first in a series of four meetings that will culminate with candidate interviews during the Feb. 20th-March 10th period and the new superintendent being named on March 15th.

Members of the screening committee are Jason Coguer, Janet Wells, Tracy

Gabbard, Sean Burdette and Sherry Spragens.

In other business, Hammond told the board that the calendar committee’s recommendation of the week of March 12-16 for spring break would be presented at the February meeting. Because there has only been one day missed because of weather this school year, the full

week for spring break was put back in the calendar. Schools would have been closed for KEA meetings on March 15 and 16 any way. With the addition of three more days for spring break, the last day of school is now set for May 10th.

The superintendent’s personnel actions report for Dec. 13-Jan. 10th was presented to the board and included: hiring Charlie Napier and Sara Coguer as substitute teachers and Kim Holcomb as LBD teacher at RCMS and, in classified personnel actions: Alecia Abney and Judy Neal, substitute instructional assistants; Stacie Graham as substitute bus monitor and Ronald J. Bullock as full time bus driver.

