Less Public Interaction

Hensley once ascribed a rationale a state law that mandates school boards meet a minimum of four times a year. By has thinking, the board’s committees could handle more detailed matters. But board committees, while typically focused on a particular subject area, can’t vote on anything.

Furthermore, when these meetings are public, they’re usually held during working hours when few people can attend, and they’re not live streamed or recorded for later viewing, unlike the twice monthly meetings.

“Our constituency expects to interact with the school board on a basis that’s much more often,” Levy said. “When we have this committee staff, we can only interact with ourselves. We’re not interacting with the public in the general public.”

Exactly. Hensley is proposing that more work perti-
nal to the public get pushed out and of view of the general public.

And while Hensley worries about taking up staff time with the twice monthly meetings, there’s no delin-
te to the public get pushed down and out of view of the general public.

This doesn’t sound like a sincere worry to work more efficiently. It sounds like an attempt to avoid public oversight.

Are They Slacking?
The school board regularly asks the public for input, whether it’s through a new strategic plan, an annual calendar, or concerns about curriculum. No one on this board, despite discussing the subject on March 6 and 13, bothered to suggest letting the public weigh in.

But perhaps they already know what the public would say. Board members and superintendents Bruce and Levy expressed doubt about changing how the board handles its meetings.

“We ran on oversight,” said Holmes. “We have a system that’s based on a daily basis,” he said. “We’re going to run our board on working members’ requests for information.”

The Pilot welcomes letters from readers. Send letters to letters@thepilot.com or mail them to 145 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Laurinburg, NC 28352. Letters must include name, phone number and city of residence and may be edited for length and clarity. The Pilot is owned by the Owners: Frank Daniels III, Lee Dirks, David Woronoff, Laura Douglass, Abbi Overfelt, John Nagy, Jack Andrews, David Woronoff.

Margaret Smetana, Editor, The Pilot

The Pilot welcomes letters from readers. Send letters to letters@thepilot.com or mail them to 145 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Laurinburg, NC 28352. Letters must include name, phone number and city of residence and may be edited for length and clarity.

The Pilot is owned by the Owners: Frank Daniels III, Lee Dirks, David Woronoff, Laura Douglass, Abbi Overfelt, John Nagy, Jack Andrews, David Woronoff.

School Assignment Called into Question

There must be a better solution to Moore County Schools’ admissions calls for middle school students. My neighbors have children at Southern Pines Elementary and recently received a letter from MCS informing them that their oldest has assigned to Crancy Creek Middle School next year.

Most of the students in her class will attending Southern Middle, which is about 3 miles from my neighborhood, while Crancy’s is 12.9 miles away.

According to data published on MCS’s website, there are 465 students at Southern Middle this year, and only 420 at Crancy Creek, so I assume that the district leadership wants to redistribute Moore County’s middle-schoolers. However, with the ever-present busing issues in our county, is sending students to a school 13 miles away when their nearest is 10 miles closer really the answer? especially when there are only five bus drivers assigned to the route.

WHy Raise the Tax?

I do understand correctly, the Local Construction and Visitors Bureau has a fund balance of 5.7 million. The CVB is only required to keep $100,000, which is 5 percent of its operating budget, in its fund balance.

The CVB wants to distribute $1 million in one-time grants to towns and nonprofits for tourism projects. The CVB receives this money from the Moore County occupancy tax. The CVB wants to disburse $1 million in one-time grants for support increase for the CVB, which is up 6 percent from last year.

Margaret Smetana

Stoney Brook Steelcase was an annual spring festival in the South of the Pilot. Stoney Brook Steelcase featured horse races, a steel plate and creative content but was discontinued before it was launched.

FINIS

The Pilot welcomes letters from readers. Send letters to letters@thepilot.com or mail them to 145 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Laurinburg, NC 28352. Letters must include name, phone number and city of residence and may be edited for length and clarity. The Pilot is owned by the Owners: Frank Daniels III, Lee Dirks, David Woronoff, Laura Douglass, Abbi Overfelt, John Nagy, Jack Andrews, David Woronoff.

Margaret Smetana

Stoney Brook Steelcase was an annual spring festival in the South of the Pilot. Stoney Brook Steelcase featured horse races, a steel plate and creative content but was discontinued before it was launched.

FINIS

The Pilot welcomes letters from readers. Send letters to letters@thepilot.com or mail them to 145 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Laurinburg, NC 28352. Letters must include name, phone number and city of residence and may be edited for length and clarity. The Pilot is owned by the Owners: Frank Daniels III, Lee Dirks, David Woronoff, Laura Douglass, Abbi Overfelt, John Nagy, Jack Andrews, David Woronoff.

Margaret Smetana

Stoney Brook Steelcase was an annual spring festival in the South of the Pilot. Stoney Brook Steelcase featured horse races, a steel plate and creative content but was discontinued before it was launched.

FINIS

The Pilot welcomes letters from readers. Send letters to letters@thepilot.com or mail them to 145 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Laurinburg, NC 28352. Letters must include name, phone number and city of residence and may be edited for length and clarity. The Pilot is owned by the Owners: Frank Daniels III, Lee Dirks, David Woronoff, Laura Douglass, Abbi Overfelt, John Nagy, Jack Andrews, David Woronoff.

Margaret Smetana