



## Observer Corps Report

**Observer:** Jane Skinner

**Meeting Observed:** Knox County School Board Meeting – Regular Session

**Meeting Date:** March 5, 2026

[Agenda](#)

[Video Recording](#)

### **Three Main Observations:**

1. In reference to item 7D. Approve MOU with Morgan Wallen Foundation for receipt of grant funding in the amount of \$1,200,000.00 for Gibbs HS... Travis Wright spoke about the many donations and contributions the foundation has made for so many of the KC Schools.
2. Item 9C. Approve North Central/Northwest Sector Zoning Proposal. Fontenot-Ridly moved to vote/ Wright seconded. **Much** discussion continued regarding the rezoning of Powell. The public felt not enough time had been given to this proposal and more time needed to explore multiple options. Lautner mentioned the opportunity for early exit if they delayed and the false sense of hope this might instill. Financially, this decision is the best, with there being 1100 seats available in the surrounding area according to Ryswyk. The final vote 2 No, 2 passes, and 5 yeses (Kate Bike changed her pass vote to a yes to gain the 5 needed votes)
3. Public forum speakers were excellent.

**Gaben Bambough (?)**—Bulldog spoke about a girl who disappeared 50 years ago in 1976 from the class of 1978

**Candace Bannister**—Spoke of her son, his learning a new word lettuce (for dinner) and then said the dinner prayer ""lettuce" thank you for this food". She continued to speak about the Farragut HS Principal who bullied her son and is currently in a very high position with KCS. During this principal's tenure at FHS, there were over 2200 emails regarding his conduct towards other students and teachers at the school and many of the people before her tonight and on the school board have been made aware of this (because she addresses them monthly regarding all that took place during this time)

**Laura Bean Allen**—shared her experiences as an ESL teacher and the fear her students are exhibiting, during these times as her students are threatened by the current national administration and the Nashville state legislation.

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
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Meeting started on time?	x		Started at 5:04
All members present?	x		
Members attentive?	x		
Did members come prepared to discuss agenda items?	x		
Agenda posted 72 hours prior to meeting?	x		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	x		
Adequate opportunity given for public input?	x		
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		x	
Was background information available to the public?	x		
Facilities adequate (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers, audible, ADA accessible)?	x		Not as good as the city-county meeting room. Smaller size, bad acoustics... There is an overflow room which is not ideal, as school board members are no always aware of the number of people in attendance.

**Were there any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? View the League's [National](#), [State](#), and [LWVKKC](#) policy positions.**

*LWVKKC Policy Positions: Childcare, Land Use, Health, Homeless/Mentally Ill Persons, Urban Forestry, Use of School Facilities by Communities, Teacher Recruitment & Retention*

League Position	Issue

**Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?**

**Other notes/concerns? I may have the first public speakers name incorrect...**