

The FY16 KCS budget has been a long journey, and we still have a ways to go, but I believe the Mayor's announcement today presents a clear and beneficial path forward for our schools, our students, our teachers and our community.

I want to thank Mayor Burchett for his willingness to work with us on this potential compromise, that will allow for a 2% raise for teachers and for two new schools to be built for our children.

This conceptual agreement is not necessarily ideal from any one particular perspective, but allows both the Knox County Schools and Knox County to work together toward some important common goals: enhancing teacher compensation, ensuring great educational facilities, and pursuing continued fiscal responsibility.

Ultimately this is a proposal that the Mayor can feel good about sending to Commission, and I can feel comfortable recommending to the Board of Education.

I appreciate the dialogue with the Mayor, and his openness to finding common ground. We've had enough "Tim versus Jim" stories in the media, I'm looking forward to seeing some great "Tim and Jim work together" stories!