

Combined Education Committee
Wednesday, August 24, 2016 4-6 PM
County Office Building, Reagan Room

Attendance:

Commissioner Richard Weaver
Commissioner Doug Howard
Paula Singer, Facilitator
Delegate Susan Krebs
Delegate April Rose
Devon Rothschild
Bob Lord
Steven Aquino
Michelle Rogers
Bobbi Tucker
Daniel Hoff
Glen Galante

The meeting opened, introductions made, and the Committee welcomed newest member, Ms. Bobbi Tucker.

Adoption of meeting minutes of August 24, 2016

Upon motion of Delegate Krebs; second by Ms. Devon Rothschild; Delegate April Rose, abstained; the Committee approved the August 3, 2016 minutes as amended (It was stated that Carroll County Public Schools goes the extra mile for at risk students, provides special education and advanced placement programs for students with special needs, and for above average students, respectively.)

Delegate Krebs provided a copy of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Facts Book, stating that it contains a wealth of information; a link to this document will be posted on the CEC website.

Ms. Rothschild stated that she appreciates Committee members taking time from their busy schedules to participate. She expressed concern regarding disruptive chatter from elected officials who are not on the Committee. This causes confusion, and she wanted to reaffirm the Committee's goals, and how they will move forward. The members agreed that all ideas are valid; the Committee is in the process of information gathering and not ready to make recommendations. Ms. Rothschild expressed concern regarding Commissioner Wantz's radio

address a few weeks ago, stating that he is working very hard not to raise taxes, and Commissioner Rothschild sent out an email saying he is opposed to raising taxes. The School Board has received a letter from the Commissioners asking Carroll County Public Schools restart the school closure process.

Delegate Krebs stated that Carroll County cannot look to the State to solve the funding problem; the County could only expect \$1M to \$2M, if hold harmless funding is provided. Ms. Rothschild wanted to confirm that everything is on the table. If not, she believes that the school board will be the ones cutting costs, and if that's the situation, she's not sure these meetings are worth the time. Commissioner Howard stated there is not a lack of commitment, but work has to go on. Each Board member speaks for themselves, but the group is in this together and everything has to be laid out on the table. Commissioner Weaver added that he didn't think there were any preconceived notions on the part of the County Commissioners, and that no one person speaks for the Board until it is discussed and voted on. Delegate Krebs stated that all four (4) Delegation members attend the meetings because of the importance. She believes the State is years away from providing additional education funding.

Superintendent Guthrie gave a presentation with information specifically about "at risk students", and followed up on questions the Committee had from his last presentation. He specifically addressed Student Enrollment Totals, Staffing Reduction and Comparison to Statewide Facilities Utilization Comparisons, and Non-Traditional Education Programs (see attached PowerPoint presentation).

A guest speaker on school funding formulas from the State Department of Legislative Services, Ms. Rachel Hise, will attend the next meeting on September 7. Delegate Krebs asked Mr. Ted Zaleski and Superintendent Guthrie for a short presentation on the County position of school funding, including per pupil spending and Maintenance of Effort. The Committee was asked to email questions about funding and the State formula to Delegate Krebs, who will provide them to Ms. Hise, to be answered during her presentation, and identify ways to get more funding for the Board of Education.

Superintendent Guthrie stated that there are two funding committees meeting: the Kirwan Commission, on which he has been asked to serve as the Maryland State Superintendent

representative. Governor Hogan has not made all of the appointments, therefore, the Commission has not started meeting. Mr. Chris Hartlove, Carroll County Public Schools, had served on a different committee, which just finished and released their preliminary report.

Commissioner Howard stated that there must be something that Carroll County is doing that the other counties, who can afford to pay their teachers more, are not doing, and that needs to be identified. What are other school systems doing to save money; what are some other options for saving money and reducing expenses? If the programs are not mandated, like art and music, is that something to be cut? Carroll County is doing a lot of good things which need to be marketed. Carroll needs to market and sell the County to bring families back to raise their children here and send them to Carroll County schools.

The Committee agreed to use the same agenda and work through that before adding more items to it.

Dr. Singer asked the group if they wanted to extend the time of the meetings, and have the last meeting on November 2, 2016 instead of October 31, 2016. The Committee approved the change. The October 19th meeting date is still in need of being changed, and Dr. Singer will conduct an email poll to see what date works best for the majority of the Committee members.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 7th 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM in the Reagan Room.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.