

Combined Education Committee
Wednesday, October 5, 2016 4-6 PM
County Office Building, Reagan Room

Attendance:

Commissioner Richard Weaver
Commissioner Doug Howard
Paula Singer, Facilitator
Delegate April Rose
Devon Rothschild
Jim Doolan, representing Bob Lord
Michelle Rodgers
Bobbi Tucker
Steven Aquino
Daniel Hoff
Glenn Galante
Roberta Windham
Steve Guthrie

Adoption of meeting minutes of October 5, 2016

Upon motion of Commissioner Richard Weaver, second by Bobbi Tucker, Steve Aquino and Doug Howard, Abstained, the September 21, 2016 meeting minutes were adopted, as presented.

Introduction

The meeting was opened and Ms. Singer reviewed today's meeting agenda with the Committee: reactions to public comments from previous meeting; an update of ground rules; presentations by Commissioner Richard Rothschild and BOE President Jim Doolan; presentation by Delegate April Rose regarding the Career and Technology Center; presentation by School Superintendent Steve Guthrie regarding follow up with more information; and extending the meetings past November 2nd.

Reactions, thoughts from the public comments session:

A question was asked by a Committee member regarding when was the last time anyone toured a classroom, Camp Hashawha, and/or the Career & Tech Center. How fairly can the Committee assess the facility or the programs if they haven't taken any of these tours (to have actually sat in a classroom and observed). Ms. Singer stated that she would have Steve Guthrie

make these areas available to the Committee members who want to “take a tour”. See Mr. Guthrie for more information.

Bruce Holstein suggested looking at the school systems efficiencies and it was suggested that the invitation should be extended to County Government and the Carroll Delegation. Commissioner Howard stated that the County is currently assembling a group to start to do that for County Government employees.

Mr. Hoff stated that it was just good to have the comments, but it is a little premature since the Committee hasn’t made any recommendations yet.

Ms. Singer shared with the Committee that Ms. Sivigny had some suggestions that Commissioner Weaver is handing out and this information will also be placed on the CEC Committee website.

Presentation by Richard Rothschild, County Commissioner, District Four

District Four Commissioner Richard Rothschild gave a presentation about CCPS challenges. He discussed a summary of key metrics, schools closings, salary analysis, school choice, qualitative issues that impact enrollments and other ideas. The presentation highlighted some Carroll County successes. The presentation discussed the recent school closures and his view of a prudent philosophy for school closures based on priorities. After his analysis, Commissioner Rothschild concluded that closing New Windsor Middle school is inconsistent with key objectives and that this decision should be reconsidered, with emphasis refocused on closure of other buildings which have reached “end of life”. The presentation discussed some CCPS salary analysis and qualitative issues that impact enrollment such as school choice, Celebrating America and values. Additional suggestions included the subjects: renaming the committee, private sector growth, bargaining agreements, headcount, shared resources and revenue.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. Commissioner Rothschild’s full presentation will be available on the CEC webpage.

Presentation by Jim Doolan, President, Carroll County Board of Education

President Doolan thanked the County for the formation of this committee and emphasized that promoting Carroll County should be the center piece of Carroll’s marketing strategy. The presentation highlighted the areas that the Board of Education has reduced expenditures. He stated that reducing the funding gap can only be accomplished by sharing the responsibility between BOE, CCG and the State. Mr. Doolan presented the BOE’s commitment to close two more schools, look for efficiencies to reduced operating expenses and reduce staff as

enrollment declines. Also, the BOE is committed to providing competitive compensation to its employees. In addition, he advocates that CCG explore increasing revenue to BOE beyond the 5 year plan by increasing efficiencies in its own operations, restoring property tax rates gradually, and re-evaluating the 100,000 acres of Agriculture Preservation. President Doolan also discussed the Multi-Year Employment/Enrollment Forecasting – stated statistics and differences in the plans resulting in some of the gap that the committee is currently discussing.

Mr. Doolan gave the Committee suggestions, such as urging the Delegation to work with the Governor (State) to support additional funds for those counties with declining enrollment. In addition, CCG should restore the amount of revenue to 50% (of the budget) for the Board of Education.

The Board of Education welcomes all suggestions from the CEC Committee and will evaluate them for their viability and long term solutions and the effect it will have on the students and county citizens.

Mr. Doolan will place his comments on the CEC website. Mr. Doolan also had a handout of the efficiency part of what has been done in this past year, which will be placed on the CEC website as well. There was a short Q&A session after the presentation.

Other:

It was concluded that the Committee should finish all the presentations today and then devote the entire next meeting to brainstorming (talk about some of the things that can be done related to solutions).

Commissioner Howard stated that because the \$40M funding gap is large, almost overwhelming to take on all at once, maybe take it in smaller pieces. The purpose is to bring the revenue and the expenses closer together. The Committee had a very involved discussion regarding the five (5) year accumulated deficit. Ms. Singer suggested that Mr. Guthrie send out an email with the exact number. Mr. Guthrie stated that he would send out a chart prior to the next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the changing curriculum in CCPS. Mr. Guthrie explained the steps and what had to be done to get to the point of changing the curriculum (very lengthy).

Presentation by Delegate April Rose, Carroll Delegation, District No. 5

Delegate Rose gave a presentation regarding her research on the Career and Technology Center. Delegate Rose met with Principal Eckles of the Career & Technology Center, completed

a site visit and discussed current steps to increase more student learning, the current operations, and future solutions. Currently, the County is doing a study on how to expand the center and how to reduce the 300+ student waiting list. The presentation covered resources and research and facility research including the Howard County Applied Physics Laboratory and a Washington County facility. Delegate Rose also spoke with Program Manager Lynne Gilli from the Maryland State Department of Education on the state career and technology situation. The presentation concluded with action items including possible short and long term solutions and the possibility of a Career & Tech foundation. The presentation will be available on the CEC website.

Presentation by Steve Guthrie, Superintendent of Schools

Gave a presentation on the actual teacher's salary increase from 2008 to 2016 with BA Degrees to Master's Degrees and where they started on the Step scale at that time. Most of the teachers are on the Master's Program. When teachers reach Step 20, there is no other place/step to go on that scale. Depending where you were on the salary scale determines what your growth was throughout. Mr. Guthrie's full presentation will be available on the CEC website.

Future CEC Meetings:

Ms. Singer stated that she spoke with Ms. Windham and Mr. Guthrie and proposed to extend the Committee meetings; she will do a Doodle poll with the dates and see if they can work the dates in and are in agreement. Reasons to extend the sessions include an expected December release of the Consultant's Report on the Compensation Study on the school system and they can make a presentation to this Committee about new Compensation and Classification recommendations. Also, the Career & Tech Center Consultant Study should be completed by then.

The next meeting will involve the approval of the minutes followed immediately by the brainstorming session. There will be some preliminary work to do in advance so that the Committee will be ready at the meeting. It was stated that the Committee needs to put this information together and get ready to do the work, and to use the next two (2) meetings to brainstorm and come up with suggestions. One area that wasn't covered is standardized student testing and how much it is costing the Board of Education. The Board of Education has that information and it can be brought to the brainstorming sessions.

Meeting adjourned.