

Combined Education Committee
Wednesday, August 3, 2016 3-5 PM
County Office Building, Reagan Room

Attendance:

Commissioner Richard Weaver
Commissioner Doug Howard
Paula Singer, Facilitator
Delegate Susan Krebs, Carroll Delegation
Delegate Haven Shoemaker, Carroll Delegation
Senator Justin Ready, Carroll Delegation
Devon Rothschild, Board of Education
Bob Lord, Board of Education
Steve Aquino, Business
Glen Galante, representing the Unions
Dan Hoff, Realtor's Association

The meeting was opened and Committee members introductions were made. Ms. Singer reviewed the group guidelines and added being civil to each other. She reminded members to be committed to putting in extra time for working between meetings and review the information provided on the website and be ready to ask questions. Ms. Singer stated that she hoped that the Committee could accomplish a few things today ~ talk about future presentations by agencies; pick dates for future public meetings where the public would be able to speak and ask questions of the group. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 4 – 6 PM and starting on August 24th the meeting time will change to 4 – 6 PM. The Committee needs to review and sign the letter to Governor Hogan regarding additional school funding (the County Commissioners, the Board of Education, and the Carroll Delegation will be signing this letter). Letter was signed.

Adoption of Minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting: Upon motion of Dan Hoff; second by Glen Galante, Delegate Krebs abstained, the minutes were adopted.

Superintendent Guthrie gave a presentation on the following topics: Budget; Student Enrollment; Staffing; and Employee Salary Comparisons ([see attached handout](#)). The Thornton Formula needs to be updated to reflect the wealth formula (it does not take into account how much of taxes are based on Carroll County residents and how much tax base is industrial and business). They would also like Superintendent Guthrie to review the special programs that CCPS offers. The Committee would like to have Superintendent Guthrie come back and give an explanation of the overall capacity of students (and possibly have it broken down by Elementary School, Middle School and High School). Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation.

Ted Zaleski, Director, Department of Management and Budget (Carroll County) gave a presentation on Carroll County Fiscal Information. **The presentation is attached.**

A discussion was held regarding what programs the Board of Education is mandated to do and what programs are being done and mandated but have outlived their usefulness; for example, the possibility of reducing the amount of school testing. It was stated that Carroll County Public Schools goes the extra mile and provides special education programs and AP programs for students with special needs and for the above average students, respectively. Because this is something that is important to the students and the parents. The Committee decided that they would like to have Superintendent Guthrie come back to make another presentation on some additional topics.

The Committee is interested in having Rachel Hise from the State Board of Education attend the first meeting in September to talk about the Education Formula (she is the expert on the Formula from the state). The Committee really needs to know what a Fair Formula is and what is expected. When Ms. Hise comes to the September meeting the Committee asked that Chris Hartlove, Carroll County Public Schools attend as well. Dr. Singer suggested that the Committee should be sure they understand the formula and how it works prior to this meeting. Also, from now until then think of things that you would be interested in asking and discussing with Ms. Hise so she can be prepared for it. Also, just prior to Ms. Hise's presentation have the Committee give her an overview of what Carroll County's problems and concerns are.

Commissioner Howard asked if it would be possible to start getting some financial information from other counties on how they are spending their money, if they can afford to pay their teachers more where the funds are coming from. What are they not doing that we are doing to be able to have those funds. How much of the Counties budgets are given to the Board of Education budget? Superintendent Guthrie said that he would work on trying to get that information for the Committee.

Devon Rothschild stated that she has been getting emails from Ms. Bobbi Tucker who has shared her interest in becoming a member of the Committee. It was decided by the Committee to have Ms. Rothschild send Ms. Tucker an email requesting that she consider being a member of the Committee representing the citizens of the county.

Sign Letter to Governor regarding Education Funding ~ The elected officials on the Committee that were present decided to sign the letter and send it to Governor Hogan.

Public Meetings with Citizens ~ the first meeting will be held after the 2nd Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 – 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 P.M.