

Combined Education Committee  
Wednesday, June 30, 2016 3-5 PM  
County Office Building, Room 105

Attendance:

Commissioner Richard Weaver  
Commissioner Doug Howard  
Ms. Paula Singer, Facilitator  
Delegate Susan Krebs, Carroll Delegation  
Delegate Haven Shoemaker, Carroll Delegation  
Devon Rothschild, Board of Education  
Bob Lord, Board of Education

The meeting was opened and Committee member's introductions were made. A discussion was held on whether the Committee was interested in having a Chair/Co-Chair to serve on the Committee. The Committee decided that Ms. Singers' role as Facilitator would serve the group by guiding them in discussions. The Committee stated that they needed to agree on the schedule and structure of what the Committee will be doing in the coming months as well as discussing what issues will be on upcoming meetings and agendas. A part of what the Committee will be doing in the coming months is collecting information, developing ideas, and getting statistics. A group email will be developed for sending out meeting notices and sharing of information. A discussion was held whether everything should be sent out to the Committee sitting at the table (currently the 6 members) or whether it should go to the full Boards {Board of Education (5); Board of Commissioners (5); Carroll Delegation (4)}? It was decided that the full Boards should get all correspondence from the Committee.

Commissioner Weaver's suggested Objectives:

1. To develop a realistic plan to bring the Board of Education budget initiatives and Carroll County Board of Commissioners revenue projections together through 2022 and to develop strategies to reduce fixed expenditures to match reduced population while maintaining a quality school system.
2. To develop strategies to reduce and fixed expenditures to match reduced population while maintaining a quality school system.

Ms. Devon Rothschild's suggested Objectives:

1. To reduce the gap between expenditures and revenues of the School System while maintaining quality instruction.

It was felt that the two (2) objectives were very similar and that they could possibly be combined. Ms. Rothschild stated that she did not feel comfortable with No. 2.

Delegate Krebs stated that the Committees' goals should be to focus on Carroll students; providing a top quality education; and how we deliver that. A baseline of information that everyone has so we know "where we stand" with spending, with per pupil status or with taxes. It was felt that it is really important for the public to get a baseline on things the Committee wants to offer before they even start getting into all of this so that they can say "what do we really need"? It was felt that the first few meetings are going to be important fact gathering meetings. It was agreed that the Committee will start from a blank slate, ask questions and then start talking about solutions. This will be totally open from beginning to end. The public will know where the Committee started and understand how they got there – that is very important. It was felt that once information is gathered and reviewed then it would be important to have significant public input.

Committee Tasks: Reduce the funding gap between expenditures and revenue while maintaining a quality education system.

Board of Education Requested Information:

- 1) Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) 5-Year Operating Budget Request
- 2) CCPS Education Facilities Master Plan
- 3) CCPS Capital Improvement Program
- 4) CCPS Internal Review of Organizational Efficiency
- 5) CCPS Vision 2018 Accomplishments
- 6) CCPS Measures of Success
- 7) CCPS Prior Expenditure Reductions

Board of County Commissioners Requested Information:

- 1) Education Funding Gap
- 2) Carroll County Government (CCG) 5-Year Operating Plan
- 3) CCG Credit Rating Presentation (2015)
- 4) CCG Commercial and Industrial Tax Revenue Projections

Is the October 31<sup>st</sup> timeframe realistic to achieve the goals of the Committee? The Committee discussed and stated that they knew that it was unrealistic to think that the solution to the problem would be found in those few months, but it is hoped the Committee will find a path to continue toward reducing the gap which could include a multitude of ideas.

It was decided by the Committee that instead of having a representative from a Municipality, they will have someone: John or Jane Q. Public. In order to facilitate and make the process faster ~ Bob Lord and Devon Rothschild will be responsible for contacting the Unions (to get a Union Representative) and the Citizen's Advisory Council (to get a Parent Representative); Commissioners Howard and Weaver will be responsible for contacting the Chamber of Commerce (for a Business representative) and responsible for contacting the Realtor's Association (for a real estate representative); and Delegate Shoemaker and Delegate Krebs will select someone from John/Jane Q. Public. Everyone is asked to have their representatives by the end of next week (July 8<sup>th</sup>). These citizen participants will be an equal part of the

Committee and will be expected to do homework/research just like the other members of the Committee.

The question was posed whether everyone has to be in attendance to make a decision? This is not a decision type committee. Ultimately, the end result is going to be what can be taken back to their Boards for their input, it is more facilitating than deciding. Devon Rothschild requested another guideline be added: “no shouting out from the audience or just asking questions whenever, as there will be time for public input”.

Information should be sent out asap so that members have a reasonable amount of time to read in advance and prepare for the meeting ahead with questions. Everyone should be prepared for the meetings.

Public Information Dialogue Sessions will be held to get input from the general public (no date as of yet).

A draft letter to Governor Hogan regarding Education Funding (a Unified Letter from the Carroll County Board of Education, Carroll County Commissioners, and the Carroll Delegation) is being circulated for review/approval and the letter should be ready to be sent out by the end of next week. Delegate Krebs stated that the letter will be coming from the 3 Boards (Education, Commissioners, and Delegation). Commissioner Howard stated that Secretary Brinkley did say that this Core Committee should be referenced in the letter.

Delegate Krebs stated that the renewal of the State’s Board of Education (Thornton) Formula needs to be changed for improvement, the Committee needs to discuss any changes that they feel needs to be changed so that the Delegation can advocate for that in Annapolis. Between the 3 Boards they can come up with “these are the reasonable things the Committee can ask for”.

Delegate Krebs ~ the things that can be brought to the table are: the Formula Changes, the Letter to the Governor, and school construction especially related to Career and Tech.

Paula Singer, Facilitator: Now that we have all this data what are we going to do with it? What are the questions and how do we ask them and how do we figure out what makes sense and how do we take it to build, going back to that question ~ how do we build a highly successful school system?

The Committee will be meeting the first and third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 P.M. in the Reagan Room, County Office Building Basement. Except for the third Wednesday in August, 2016 (this is the Maryland Association of Counties Annual Summer Conference in Ocean City).

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 P.M.