



Board of Education of Harford County
Budget Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2017

Call to Order

Mr. Securro called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Committee Members Present

Scott Bachman	Paul MacMillian
Donald Beynon	John Santora
Dick Calvert	Bill Securro
Michelle Francis	Jim Thornton

HCPS Staff Member(s) Present

Eric Clark, Supervisor of Budget

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by John Santora and a second by Mr. MacMillian to accept the 11/16 meeting minutes. Ms. Francis will submit the approved minutes to Ms. Schmid for posting for public review.

Old Business

A. Budget Input Sessions

- There have been large turnouts for each of the sessions with many speakers (most in support of the swim program)
- 85% of the budget is related to staff, salaries, admin, etc.
- Critical Needs list totals about \$9MM and is not in the proposed budget

B. Proposed Establishment of Sub Committees and Issues

Mr. Securro proposes:

- Creation of 3 sub committees
 - Mr. Securro to create a charge for each sub committee
 - Committee members to sign up for desired sub committee
 - Lay the groundwork to determine what is needed for sub committee
1. Process (Board's Budget process from beginning to end)
 - Marketing and presentation to the community and the County Council
 - Ways to improve the process
 2. Staffing
 - Block scheduling in High Schools evaluation (cost, value, etc.)
 - Get input from teachers from other regions (find out what worked well or didn't in their prior locations)
 - Analysis of Administrative Costs (school based vs. no school based staff)
 3. Shared Services
 - Salaries/Benefits
 - Vendor Management/RFP's
 - Consider contracting custodial services out to vendors

C. Review of Current Budget Presented by Superintendent Canavan

- Question: What is the current pension cost being paid by Harford County?
 - Answer: Mr. Clark responded that it does change every year but is ~ 15%
 - Teachers pensions ~5% (which the State used to pay)
 - Employees pensions have always been paid by the County and is ~ 10%
 - This is fully phased in now
- Question: Is there a document that shows enrollment and class size by school and grade level, if not can this be requested?
 - Answer: Mr. Clark advised the report in that particular view is no longer published
 - The 9/30/16 snapshot is what is used in the budget and doesn't change during the year
- Mr. Calvert made a motion to request the specific class size information by school and grade for HCPS (and also another county i.e. Frederick) as it will be fundamental information for the committee
- Mr. Securro will send an email request to Ms. Reynolds for this information for Harford and Frederick Counties
- Mr. Calvert shared that on page 82 of the Annual Report the enrollment by school for the last 10 years is listed
- Mr. Thornton advised that a similar report is produced annually as part of the Adequate Public Facilities Committee
- Question: Can outside sponsors make contributions/sponsorships for specific HCPS programs (i.e. swimming, drama, etc.)?
 - Answer: Mr. Clark said yes, but issues have to be worked out around having a goal for a program and it isn't met...what then happens to the money that was collected?
- Question: Can "For Profit and Non Profits" rent/use HCSP facilities?
 - Answer: Mr. Clark advised he believes only Non Profits can use the facilities and they can only charge to cover the cost of the event....they cannot make a profit. There will be an in depth explanation of this process during the January 19th Budget Discussion. Mr. Clark also advised this question could be emailed to Ms. Reynolds for clarification from general counsel.
- Mr. MacMillian commented when Athletics begin to be removed it can be a slippery slope and several students can be lost to private schools. Why not allow the community/alumni contribute financially?
- Mr. Thornton added that a few years ago there were discussions to make HCPS more like private schools (with a Business Development Office focusing on these types of initiatives).
- Mr. Bachman added that the private schools are doing this to attract new students and HCPS should consider this to retain existing students.
- Mr. Securro suggested looking at HCPS allowing RFP's from the private sector for bids for items (such as managing the pools).
- Mr. Beynon added looking at shared services within the county for efficiencies (i.e. Parks and Rec and HCPS both have their own lawn care equipment).
 - It was discussed how Harford County is unique because the Board of Education is comprised of elected individuals without financial decision making authority and is reliant on the County Executive for funding decisions.
 - This has probably been discussed in the past, but should be revisited and presented to the existing Board to get a sense of their feelings.
- Mr. Beynon suggested there is a need to review make up of Principals/AP's to Teachers and other Administrative positions.
- Mr. Clark advised how the teacher evaluation system is much more intense than in prior years. The state and federal input makes it more rigorous.
- Mr. Santora suggested we research proposing a 3 to 5 year budget instead of annual one which would help with building a better business case.
- Mr. Calvert asked if we can get a comparison of Admin. Costs to Education Costs for Harford and Frederick Counties.

- Mr. MacMillian asked if there is way to find out the migration from HCPS to private schools over the last 15 years. Mr. Thornton added the request should also include migration to Homeschooling.

D. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates

- April 12, 2017
- June 14, 2017 – Mr. Securro’s goal is to be able to provide a preliminary committee report to the Board in June

New Business

Harford County Executive’s Budget Hearings

- The County Executive hosted a Virtual Budget Town Hall Meeting on 1/19/17
- The County Council has two public sessions scheduled
- The County Council can only cut the proposed budget from the County Executive (they cannot increase the budget)

Adjourn

With no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.