



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

Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2019

Call to Order

Mr. Securro called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Committee Members Present

Scott Bachman	Don Beynon
Dick Calvert	Michelle Francis
Dion Guthrie	Joe Lambdin
Bill Securro	Jim Thornton

HCPS Staff Members Present

Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
Eric Clark, Director of Budget for Business Services

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lambdin and a second by Mr. Calvert to accept the 11/14/18 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written. Ms. Francis will submit the approved minutes to Ms. Schmid for posting for public review.

Old Business

A. Sub Committee Report – Activities:

- No Sub Committee meetings were held recently.
- Enrollment and Class Size:
 - Committee will be meeting in February.
 - Link on hcps that was shared has the Sept 30, 2018 report (previous years can be seen there as well).
 - There was a net year over year increase of 32 students (which appears to be in Pre-K)
 - Report reflected about 6,500 empty seats in the county and projections don't show much change through 2026
 - Some schools are at 60-70% capacity
 - Eric advised the state funding is the same
 - Question: Is there a strategy regarding schools with low enrollment and older building with costly improvements (i.e. Joppatowne)?
 - This should be addressed through periodic redistricting – look at schools that have capacity and make changes on the fringe
 - Recordation taxes and impact fees are down in the county (~500 permits last year compared to 1,500+ in previous years)
- Budget Development Teams:
 - Staffing & Deployment – no updates
 - Spending Freeze – Ms. Judd advised they are reviewing purchase order requests as they are received (and volumes have decreased). 2Q projections will be available soon.
 - Hiring Freeze – Ms. Judd stated the committee isn't meeting on a regular basis since the process has been established, but they are holding firm to the requests.
 - Schools had to give back 10% of their budget and departments had to give back 2% (which includes salaries). Target was to get \$5-\$9MM back (currently coming in between \$6-\$7 MM).

- They have requested all retirement and separation notices in by February 15th (to get a \$500 bonus) to assist with planning.
- Outsourcing – There was a team meeting on 11/29 to focus on developing the team charge
- Question: Has the county been involved in any of the Budget Development Team Meetings?
 - Our committee previously recommended formal meetings between the BOE and the County
 - Since Mr. Eric Davis just began on January 2nd (Mr. Licata’s replacement) hoping those meeting routines will be established in the near future
 - Mr. Seccurro advised we need to follow up on this recommendation
- Bill Seccurro reminded committee chairs that February and April have been reserved for sub-committee meetings as appropriate.
- B. Quarterly Meeting Dates for 2019
 - March 13, 2019
 - May 8, 2019
 - June 12, 2019
- Dates are subject to change based on Budget Development Teams Meetings, 2019 Budget Calendar and inclement weather

New Business

- A. Kirwin Commission and possible impact on HCPS.
 - Committee has been meeting for two years and the final reports are being delayed
 - Suggestion was made to encourage the BOE to lobby for funds to be administered with enrollment instead of only wealth.
 - Currently there is no Harford County representation in the delegation so how do we make our issues and concerns known in Annapolis?
 - Mr. Seccurro will draft a letter to Mr. Voskuhl with our thoughts and suggestions to have someone that can keep the BOE advised with Kirwin Commission developments. He will send to the committee to review and provide feedback.
 - Mr. Guthrie commented that there is more money for the state due to lockbox.
- B. Staff Reductions (School Year 2019-2020)
 - Proposed for next year to reduce money given from fund balance (159 teaching positions and 20 administrative positions be eliminated).
 - Positions had to be cut because of the overall gap (teachers will be moved to fill vacant positions and the typical 200 new hires will not occur)
 - There was a suggestion to look at Block Scheduling again.
 - Has it improved performance in schools?
 - How is it impacting salaries?
 - Easier to quantify the teachers salary in elementary schools, but difficult in middle and high schools.
 - What are other counties doing?
 - Mr. Seccurro will also craft a letter regarding a possible review of Block Scheduling.
 - Mr. Clark advised they have been asked to create a ratio (teacher: student) to get the “best fit” for each school in order to have consistency across the county.
 - Mr. Bachman suggested floaters be considered that could work where needed throughout the county.
 - There was also a suggestion that one teacher could rotate between schools (i.e. for Advanced Placement Classes) and/or job sharing.
 - Question: Is there an appeal process in place for the reductions?
 - Still TBD – depending on where they land there could be an opportunity to open some positions back up
 - Mr. Thornton commented that Dr. Bulson is doing a great job with transparency, updating the community and trying to reset the budget process.

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Adjourn

With no further business before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.