Frederick County, Maryland County Council/Board of Education Meeting [4:30 p.m.] (Wednesday, February 17, 2016)
Generated by Debbie Wachter-Harne on Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Board of Education Members Present: President, Brad W. Young, Zakir Bengali, Colleen Cusimano, Kathryn Groth, April F Miller, Joy Schaefer
Absent: Elizabeth Barrett
Frederick County Council Members Present: President, Bud Otis, Vice President, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Tony Chmelik, Kirby Delauter, Jerry Donald, Jessica Fitzwater, Billy Shreve
Others Present: Theresa R. Alban, Superintendent, Ray Barnes, Chief Operating Officer, FCPS, Janice Spiegel, Education Liaison, Frederick County Government, Sarah Perez, Student Member of the Board, Debbie Wachter-Harne, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education.

1. Work Session [4:30 p.m.]

Procedure: 1.01 Call to Order at 4:32 pm. in the Board Room of Frederick County Public Schools.

Procedure: 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Action, Agenda: 1.03 Approval of the Agenda of the February 17, 2016 Frederick County, Maryland County Council/Board of Education Meeting
County Council President, Bud Otis asked for approval of the agenda.
Moved approval of the agenda.
Motion by: M.C. Keegan-Ayer, second by Jessica Fitzwater
Motion: Carried
Yea: Bud Otis, Brad Young, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Zakir Bengali, Colleen Cusimano, Kathryn Groth, April F Miller, Joy Schaefer, Tony Chmelik, Kirby Delauter, Jerry Donald, Jessica Fitzwater, Billy Shreve

Action, Minutes: 1.04 Approval of the August 5, 2015 Board of Education/Frederick County Government Joint Meeting minutes
Moved approval of the August 5, 2015 minutes.
Motion by: Joy Schaefer, second by Kathryn Groth
Motion: Carried
Yea: Bud Otis, Brad Young, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Zakir Bengali, Colleen Cusimano, Kathryn Groth, April F Miller, Joy Schaefer, Tony Chmelik, Kirby Delauter, Jerry Donald, Jessica Fitzwater, Billy Shreve

Mr. Young welcomed the Council to Frederick County Public Schools, and extended regrets for Vice President, Elizabeth Barrett could not attend due to a family issue.

Council President, Otis asked Janice Spiegel to talk about bills filed by the County Executive and being reviewed by the County Council.
Bill 16-04 - Development and Library Impact Fees - to raise fees to increase the fee at Elementary level and provided an explanation of
Bill 16-05 - Increase School Mitigation/School Construction Fees - increase these fees to pay school construction and provided an explanation and is recommended for approval by the County Council.

Ms. Fitzwater asked if the Board has taken a formal position on the increase of fees. Would like to hear feedback from Board members.

Mr. Young shared the Board had discussed taking a formal position on fee increases at our work session this morning, the Board did not take a formal position and felt it was not in their pervue or judgement to make that call.

Ms. Groth and Ms. Schaefer thanked the County Council and all community stakeholder for coming together on school construction issues we are currently experiencing.

Mr. Young shared that FCPS staff is continuing to work on value funding during the construction of the new Frederick High. Ms. Miller

Mr. Young provided an overview of the requested FCPS budget. And Board members provided information on the following topics:

Lower enrollment
Wealth factors

Half year deferred salary step increase
Class size increase
Course offerings affected
Summer school
Virtual school options
No now initiatives
One time only funding requests
New salary scale - Negotiations

Council member Shreve, President, Otis and Mr. Chmelik asked questions regarding salary funding, salary scale, negotiations and associated costs, digital classroom, and virtual school.
Mr. Young and Dr. Alban provided answers and acknowledged staff, Leslie Pellegrino, Chief Financial Officer for her expertise on the budget, and maintenance and custodial staff.
Ms. Groth shared 87% of our budget is personnel and benefit costs. Ms. Miller shared that had salaries been fulfilled yearly over the past 6 years the cost would be over $45.4 million over what it is now.

Board members and County Council members discussed digital classroom, BYOD, Tech Now Plan, WAN, online resources, virtual school course offerings, PeopleSoft upgrades are possible areas to support one time funding. But also like having line items for replacement of some systemic needs. However, training, supporting staff and replacement of updated equipment are ongoing needs not one time.

Billy Shreve shared thoughts on moving elementary grade 5 to middle schools asking Board members to look at math and philosophy. Dr. Alban shared as a district we could not do this district wide due to some buildings that are already overcrowded. Dr. Miller shared thoughts on system needs, and Ms. Cusimano shared we need to look at a holistic redistricting and be creative to find solutions. Mr. Shreve asked for a timeline to look at redistricting. Mr. Young indicated there would be redistricting with the completion of the two new elementary schools, Butterfly Ridge and Sugarloaf and will occur within the next two years. Dr. Miller and Board members shared ideas and prior discussion about why this needs to be looked at comprehensively and possible systemic affects.

Mr. Young offered remarks, and left the room at 5:37 pm.

Mr. Shreve asked to have discussion on bidding two elementary schools together for cost savings and shared information. Ray Barnes joined Board members for this discussion and indicated FCPS had done this before. It didn't result in a lot of cost savings, but it has possibilities. Kirby Delauter asked questions regarding the two upcoming elementary schools, Butterfly Ridge and Sugarloaf. Mr. Barnes said we could bid both at the same time and are at the same phase design wise. Mr. Delauter indicated there is a developer that will procure one of those schools on a lease back program costing about $2 million annually. Discussion occurred on Operating and Capital budgets. After 30 years the building would revert back to County on a Capital lease. This would be a Board and County decision, and would need to be looked at financially by both Boards. Mr. Chmelik offered MOE would offset some costs. BOE would have to look legally at the lease possibility and State funding. Discussed a task force to look at this option. Board members and County Council members are all willing to come together to look at all options available. Mr. Donald asked how does the Board go about deciding on what school would be built if funding is not available. Ms. Schaefer stated we would have to go back to the drawing board, but did not want to pick a solution for the County and would like to work together and proactively to solve this issue. Talked about a task force focus and have a letter to go out.

Sarah Perez, student member, offered comments.

Public Comments -
Janice Spiegel

1.05 Comments
Mr. Delauter, Ms. Cusimano, Mr. Donald, Ms. Keegan-Ayer, Dr. Miller, Ms. Schaefer, Ms. Groth, Ms. Fitzwater, Mr. Chmelik, and Mr. Shreve all provided closing comments.
Mr. Shreve shared Classmates 4life program will be held March 2nd at 5:45 with a Red Carpet Award Ceremony at 6:30 pm. Acting State Superintendent and the Lt. Governor will attend.

Mr. Otis asked about the next meeting date.

Mr. Otis shared final comments, asked everyone to get involved and are optimistic about school construction possibilities. The County Council is still working, and working together collaboratively will help find solutions for the students of Frederick County.

After discussion among attendees, the meeting was set tentatively set for Wednesday, June 15, 2016. Ragen Cherney will follow up to schedule a time and location.

1.06 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President, Bud Otis at 6:24 pm.