

Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council
Pre-Operating Budget October 8, 2012
Minutes

Meeting called to order: 7 PM

Advisory Council Members: Jackie Brewster, Bonnie Saul, Sandra Skordalos & Bud Staigerwald

Attendees: Matthew Corner (Chesapeake HS – AP), Ryan Imbriale (Patapsco HS - Principal), Roger Janssen (Board of Education), Lisa Murphy (Fiscal Analyst, Budget & Reporting), H. Edward Parker (Board of Education), Dale Rauenzahn (Executive Director Student Support Services), Tom Shouldice (Dundalk HS – Principal), Perry Warren (Deep Creek MS – Teacher), & Mike Weglein (Sollers Point Technical HS – Principal)

Speakers:

Jessica Paffenbarger (GTCAC chair)

“I am a parent of two students who are benefiting from the GT program in our public schools. I am here tonight on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education for which I am the chair. We are a school system advisory group appointed by the Superintendent to address the issues, needs, and concerns affecting the school system’s many thousands of students with high potential because of the rate and depth of their ability to learn. These students are in every part of our county and, like every other student, deserve a consistently delivered program based on an appropriately designed curriculum as well as teachers and administrators trained to recognize and understand their needs and their potential.

Professional Development for our teachers and principals is one way GT CAC feels that the needs of all students can be met. It is rare that educators participate in any coursework focused on the needs of high potential/ high ability learners. We would like to see more funds put aside in the coming budget for providing Professional Development for all educators in the area of differentiation and responsive teaching. Educators must have the instructional strategies that will allow them to be responsive to the needs of each and every student. This is a priority that will not only serve GT students, but will serve all students.”

Sheila Tilghman (parent)

She spoke regarding funding transportation for students who chose to attend another school, because their school was not making AYP. Now that there is a state waiver, transportation will no longer be provided. Her child is receiving an excellent education where they are now and she is reluctant to return her child to their home school.

Maxine Erickson (Dundalk HS - PTSA President)

“Dundalk has made great academic and social strides in the last four years in part due to the additional financial support from BCPS. This support and the hard work of our teachers, students, and parents have made a significant difference in the school and the community. For the last four years, Dundalk has made AYP for all subgroups. The teachers and staff are committed to the Dundalk students.

We realize that this is going to be a difficult economic year for Baltimore County. We also want the progress at Dundalk to continue. In the last two years, Dundalk's staff has been cut by 15.5%. That is a reduction of 17 teachers. This has meant larger class sizes at all levels and fewer resources with which to help individual students. We do not want the progress of the school to stall or begin to slip backward.

For next year's budget, we request that there be no further reduction in the staff at Dundalk and that the school be staffed based on the needs of our Dundalk population. In addition, we request that the school receive the necessary maintenance of effort operating funding to continue to make progress. We don't want to see the investment in Dundalk reversed.

On another note, we want to thank the Board for their continued support of the construction of the new Dundalk Sollers Point High School. Construction is about 85% complete. We are looking forward to the school opening in the fall of 2013. We invite everyone to swing by the school to see this stellar project. It is going to be truly amazing and a jewel for our community."

Jackie Brewster (Patapsco HS & CFA - PTSA Secretary)

"I want to thank BCPS for releasing the air conditioning report on September 18th. It pleases us to see that Patapsco HS is listed as the second school to receive air conditioning on the priority list. I was previously informed that the high schools will be receiving air conditioning as they are renovated. I am hoping that this means that the next two high schools to be renovated are Overlea HS and Patapsco HS. Both of these facilities are in dire need of renovation.

I am happy to report that the Patapsco HS parking lot was resurfaced over the summer and that there are plans in place to add our stadium. I am hoping that county agencies are speaking to one another as they make plans to complete this process. As I am very happy that Patapsco will be finally getting a stadium, I am hoping that when they renovate our building they will be able to add the addition that is desperately needed at Patapsco. I know that learning cottages may be the norm at some schools, but they should not be. Our students deserve a school facility that meets the need of our neighborhood as well as our magnet students. If the size of the property does not allow an addition, then a two story building is the answer. It is very sad to hear students from visiting schools make comments that our building looks like a prison. While our principal, Mr. Imbriale has made tremendous progress at Patapsco, we need BCPS and the board of education to provide the funding necessary to not only renovate our facility, but to add the additional seats to our school and finally get rid of the trailers from our school grounds."

Jackie Brewster (Charlesmont ES – PTA Treasurer)

1. "I am happy to say that our school recently received a kiln for our art classroom. We are now in need of having it set up. Right above where the kiln would be installed, there is a roof leak.
2. Security personnel are needed to patrol our school property from 2:55pm when General John Stricker Middle School dismisses until our children leave the school grounds around 3:45pm. There have been numerous fights and both the SRO and Assistant Principal from GJSMS have been assisting our staff with these dismissal issues. Parents should be able to pick up their child from school without

being concerned about being attacked either physically or verbally from students attending other schools.

3. For our neighbors at Battle Monument, they are in need of an extension to their parking lot. They have added students and staff and do not have adequate parking in their lot. They must therefore park along the street which creates a safety hazard at our school because it blocks the visibility of cars and students exiting our parking lots and sidewalks. Our staff has grown at Charlesmont as well, so there are no additional spaces in our lots to accommodate their staff.
4. Please consider adding additional staffing to decrease class sizes. We have one 5th grade class with 31 students.
5. Please consider adding a bus attendant to help supervise the students on our bus. Last year we had two busses and this year the students now ride one bus. There are many students on this one bus, which makes it difficult to drive and supervise these students.
6. Please consider setting aside money for each school to purchase costly technology supplies (for example projector bulbs) to maintain their technology equipment/ replacement computers.”

Jackie Brewster (SE Area Schools)

Areas of Concern:

- Maintenance of our aging facilities
- Class sizes
- Decreasing number of guidance counselors especially in our middle and high schools.
- The lack of technology in non-Title One schools. Much of the new curriculum requires using document cameras, promethean type boards and projectors. What are these teachers going to do if they do not have this equipment in their classroom? Where are the computers/ promethean boards going from Dundalk HS and Sollers Tech. when the new facility opens? I hope they are going to other schools in the southeast area.
- Parking spaces are needed at both Battle Monument and General John Stricker MS. General John Stricker lost spaces due to the addition of the Child Find program and staff was already forced to park on the street.
- Equal funding for all schools. Magnet programs should request money for specific needs.
- Adequate funding for the additional adult support in kindergarten classes.
- Adequate funding of instructional assistants for students with an IEP.
- SROs in all high schools and middle schools. They also need to look at adding officer presence in and around elementary campuses, especially at arrival and dismissal times.
- Adequate funding to support the new Common Core Curriculum.

Sandie Skordalos (Patapsco HS)

She spoke regarding the cost of using contract bus companies for extra-curricular activities. It seems as though it would be more cost effective to provide transportation by hiring part time drivers, creating a new shift or paying overtime and use our busses.

Testimony portion adjourned: 7:25 PM

The SE advisory council met briefly to discuss the priorities for our area and address other concerns.

We would like to know how the Joint Advisory Coordinator is chosen. What is the procedure to select this person? What are their duties and responsibilities? How are they supposed to be working with the advisory councils?

We appreciate the attendance of the Board of Education members and the school system personnel at our meeting. We welcome their future attendance at our meetings.

Special thanks to Mr. Weiglein, Mr. Sheehe and the students of Sollers Point Tech. HS for hosting our dinner and preparing a delicious meal. It is always a pleasure to see our students being prepared for their future.

Meeting adjourned: 8:39 PM