

School Budget Review Committee

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Approved

Minutes

February 13, 2017

The following members were in attendance: Olga Butler, Robert Coleman, Ann De Lacy, Ellen Flynn Giles, Joshua Kaufman, Paul Lemle, Jason Werther, and Matta Zeinali. In addition, County Auditor Steve Peters and Council Analyst Jeff Meyers attended. The following representatives of the School System attended: David Clark, Timothy Thornburg, and Beverley Davis.

The video/audio archive of the meeting is available at this web address:
<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

Chairperson Joshua Kaufman began the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

The Chairperson introduced the co-chairpersons of the Board of Education's Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC): Dean Sheridan and Debbie Engle. Mr. Sheridan and Ms. Engle described the OBRC's activities since it was formed in December. The 18-member OBRC has met 7 times and created a number of subgroups. The OBRC will be presenting its first set of recommendations to the Board of Education on February 14, 2017. Those recommendations are posted on the Board of Education Boarddocs website under the February 14, 2017, work session [direct link <https://goo.gl/rvRJOU>].

The Committee members and the OBRC co-chairs engaged in a dialogue, comparing their various recommendations and plans. Nat Turner, Dan Medinger, and Lisa Markovitz, members of the OBRC, offered personal recommendations about matters that they considered priorities.

Committee member Paul Lemle briefed the Committee about some matters related to collective bargaining. The documents that he distributed to the Committee are posted on the Committee

web page under the heading “HCEA Presentation Materials 2/13/17”¹. Mr. Lemle provided information to compare teachers’ wage changes with those of other County employment groups. He cited a study [http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/lwp/papers/Job_Market_Paper.pdf] that shows that strong unions are good for school systems. He also discussed how the School System handled the health and dental fund over the last several years and made some suggestions on how that might change.

Ms. De Lacy invited Tim Thornburg, HCPSS Director of Staff Relations, to comment on Mr. Lemle’s remarks. Mr. Thornburg indicated that HCPSS is competitive with other Maryland school systems.

Mr. Kaufman noted that he had not yet received any responses from County Council members regarding the Committee’s preliminary recommendations. He asked Mr. Meyers to follow-up with the Council Members.

The Committee adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

February :

Thur, Feb 23 6:30-8:30p

March:

Wed, Mar 8 11:30a-1:30p

Thur, Mar 23 6:30-8:30p

April:

Wed, Apr 5 11:30a-1:30p

Thur, Apr 27 6:30-8:30p

May:

Wed, May 10 11:30a-1:30p

Thur, May 25 6:30-8:30p

¹ [http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/School_System_Budget_Review_Committee]