



Parent Advisory Committee Minutes January 19, 2012

Called To Order: 7:00 pm.

In Attendance: Victor and Luann Quarato, *Governor Wolf*; Cindy Lancaster, *Hanover*; Pete Mayes, *James Buchanan*; Marie Brown and Melissa Beebe, *Miller Heights*; Melissa Sonnenblink, *Spring Garden*; Angela Sinkler, *Broughal*; Megan Evans Gartley, *Broughal*; Ed and Karen Boksan, *East Hills*; David Amidon, *Nitschmann*; Laura Kuehner, *Nitschmann*; Julie Shaw, *Liberty*; Carol Todaro, *Liberty*; Beth Reinert, *Nitschmann*; Judith Sheriff, *Northeast*; Alita DeAngelis, *Northeast*; Becky Darrell, *Northeast*; Sherri Marino, *Asa Packer*; Judy Parr, *Freedom*; Lauren Brennan, *Freedom*; Luis Mercado, *Freedom*; Michael Bouchier, *Freedom*; Gina Scala, *Liberty*; Diana Carrillo, *Thomas Jefferson*; Mark Harris, *Liberty*; Jen Woolley, *Farmersville*; Dr. Jack Silva and Dr. Joseph Roy.

Greetings & Introductions

Announcements

1. PAC will try to get the minutes out earlier-January Minutes due by 2/1
2. Broughal Middle School Performance announcement - February 3rd 7pm
(*Handout*)
3. Audit- District is making progress
 - a. Business Operations: reduction in findings by the auditor between 9-10 to 10-11, down by 75% - Reviewed departments, employees, new IT Solution System
4. Fund Balance getting back to where it should be – The 2012-2013 Preliminary General Fund Budget/Total Ending Fund Balance - is at 15 million
(*Fund balance is maintained for sound financial management and cash flow purposes*)
5. Board reviewing Transportation & Operations Depts.-savings are there for the budget
6. Former/Current BASD Employees have been in the paper for various reasons-Former Custodian and Assistant Supervisor of Transportation
7. Liberty High School Principal, Mrs. Durante will be retiring. Liberty is preparing to conduct staff surveys (will cover skills/abilities needed in the new principal to make Liberty successful). District will go through the proper procedures for hiring the new principal- get announcement out to appropriate educational websites/papers/contacts; conduct three rounds of interviews involving committee, staff, & the board; conduct background checks and visits. BASD will eventually narrow it down to two candidates in March/April.

The goal is to hire and approve a new principal in April which is Mrs. Durante's retirement date.

Minutes were approved. (Will be revised for spelling)

PAC budget survey/activity (reviewed by the AP Stats Class)-see *Budget Focus Group handout*

Activity- Establishing Spending Priorities in the 2012-2013 BASD Budget-
(PAC reps apportioned 100 points to spending priorities)

Most Important Priority-Maintaining diverse/robust curriculum offerings,
maintaining manageable class sizes and support services

Least Important Priority- Not exceeding a 2% tax increase

(Conducted a similar survey/activity at Freedom and is being reviewed/analyzed now)

Budget Update- see *BASD 2012-13 Proposed Preliminary Budget handout*

1. Preliminary Budget will be presented to the board on January 23rd at the meeting. BASD had their first out of three budget workshops on January 11th. Two more workshops will follow. Budget can be found on-line. Budget needs to be approved in June.
2. BASD is in better shape this year than last year due to the cuts made last year. Still face challenges because revenue side is not growing quickly and expenses are still increasing. Some factors include increase in health care costs and pension costs.
3. Proposing a 4% tax increase. Not anticipating % to go lower, but may increase for some projects which have been on hold for a long time. (BASD improvements, band uniforms, etc.)
4. Revenues will increase 0.96% with expenditures increasing 3.45%
5. Another factor impacting the BASD budget, will be the final outcome of the state budget
6. Fund Balance (can help close the revenue/expenditure gap)- may receive additional funds with the TIF Deal (Sands Casino) but still waiting for final numbers- (BASD estimated on the low side and it may come in higher which will be good), under spending is helping, Martin Tower is not included in this number.
7. Other questions/concerns from the floor:
 - a. How many years for the current teacher contract? - 3 more years
 - b. Will BASD take a closer look at the Transportation Budget?
 - i. Gas-alternative fuels? (BASD looked at the fleet, not alternative fuels-takes \$40,000 a year to run one bus)
 - ii. Expanding the school/bus boundaries? By doing this, it will impact the number of students riding the bus.
 - c. Charter School costs are impacting the budget. BASD wants to invite the Charter School students back to BASD. BASD will send out invitations to invite students back to BASD. Invitations will list what BASD has to offer. BASD trying to determine why students prefer

Charter Schools. (Bullying/Social problems are the number one reason. Childcare-full day kindergarten.) A suggestion to list the difference in standards between charter vs. public schools. BASD is also looking into funding for the charter school- charter schools should not receive funding for programs which are being not offered by BASD schools. For example, Charter Schools should not be reimbursed for extra programs such as 4 year old kindergarten especially if BASD does not offer 4 year old kindergarten. Charter schools should not be reimbursed for full day kindergarten if BASD does not offer full day kindergarten.

Elementary Stretch Learning Plan- see *Roadmap to Educational Excellence handout and Stretch Learning Plan handout*

Roadmap to Educational Excellence Handout summarizes the BASD's high expectations/high support approach for the first quarter 2011-12

Executive Summary for the Elementary Stretch Learning Plan Handout- (Due to budget cuts, stretch learning programs were eliminated, but BASD would like to implement this program again) BASD would like to reach out to our community to provide engaging learning experiences for all students no matter what ability level. Events and activities could be held inside and outside of the schools. Activities in the following areas will be considered- music, art, social studies, science, technology, health & physical education while partnering with local universities and other local businesses. Please send all suggestions/contact info. to Dr. Silva.

New Business:

1. Request for a four-way stop sign at Maple and North for Thomas Jefferson School, Diane will contact the Facilities Director/City about resolving this concern.
2. Limited book availability in some classrooms – 10th grade Liberty, General and Special Education...Appropriate department chairs should be contacted so they can make a list to be turned into Dr. Silva.

Old Business: All City Band Concert will be on this year's school calendar

Possible topics for the upcoming meetings

1. Computer/website use
2. College/career/military preparedness at the end of schooling
3. Parent engagement
4. Improving study skills and effectiveness of homework
5. Review of school improvement plans
6. Reasons for disconnect between teacher and student/parent values and expectations

Next Meeting Topics: Cyber Learning "Leader in Me"

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Jen Woolley, Farmersville Elementary School PAC Representative

APPROVED: February 9, 2012