

The Legislative Council Education Committee meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Attendance:

Bob Merola, Legislative Council
5 Members of the Public

Education Committee Members:

Jeff Capeci, Legislative Council
George Ferguson, Legislative Council
Kathy Fetchick, Legislative Council
Dan Honan, Legislative Council
Paul Lundquist, Legislative Council
Dan Wiedemann, Legislative Council

VOTER COMMENTS

Dawn Briggs, 31 Pleasant Hill Rd and Karen Kuglar, 29 Brookwood Drive. Interested in the joint meeting and wants to understand how mandatory expenditures for schools are going to impact the budget. She is also interested in understanding about hiring a consultant for facility usage. She would like to bring that information back to the PTAs.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action on Board of Education 2013-14 Budget recommendations.

The following were the topics of discussion that the group thought should be brought forward in the joint LC/BOS/BOE/BOF meeting:

- An understanding of the “baked in” costs year over year
- Key Question to be answered: Why are costs increasing when the population is decreasing?
- There should be a tracking of large expenses
- The budget development should be tied into the strategic plan included but not limited to the status, financial backing required, manpower required, measureable outcomes...
- The need to set a realistic financial goal at the outset and work backwards
- The need to have a better understanding of the financial numbers; what the money is paying for; how does this advance us as a school system; why the programs are needed. Then we need to decide if the population will pay for it.
- Would like to see the list of initiatives (needs vs wants)

All the above needs to be explained to the folks who don't have children in the school system.

VOTER COMMENTS

Karen Kuglar, 29 Brookwood Drive, Michelle Assante, 16 Wendover Road, Julia Conlin, 11 Old Castle Drive and Michelle Ku, 28 Platts Hill Rd. Spoke about the following topics: Concerned about the

cost/student. She believes it is the lowest in the state or DRG. Education has changed and mandates cost more. Questions whether we are spending enough. Recommended that LC members attend BOE meetings. People think waste is everywhere. The strategic plan is good. Should let the public decide on the budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Ferguson and seconded by Mr. Wiedemann was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Submitted: Kathy Fetchick, LC Education Chair