Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Notes

February 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Board member and CAC committee chairperson Joe Ferdinando welcomed CAC members (seated at the tables) and guests. He reviewed the agenda and stressed the importance of receiving CAC feedback regarding the budget.

There were 30 total attendees, including 25 CAC members.

FY25 Budget Presentation

Dr. Lawson summarized the January 24 Board budget presentation that highlighted that $17M in cuts if we do NOT receive more than the required local share by the county. The final budget request will be approved by the Board on February 28, 2024.

Ms. Sopa shared copies and explained (1) the CCPS Chart of the Accounts and (2) the draft CCPS FY25 Unrestricted Budget Request, Budget Detail by Department (from the February 6 Board Budget meeting). She highlighted the following: CCPS has over 25,000 different accounts, with expense accounts matching Blueprint required projects; CCPS does not have a different reporting platform or consultant to generate personalized reports; CCPS has provided the county with a line-by-line report that relates to the listed codes, as also required by the State; and the draft Budget detail was created by staff and previously provided to the Board and county leaders to help simplify the line-by-line report.

Discussion

CAC members divided into small groups to discuss thoughts relating to FY25 budget priorities and reductions in expenses. When the group reconvened, they shared thoughts, including:

- The impact of eliminating or reducing secondary media specialists
- The reduction of G/T teachers, drug education teachers, and media specialists and logistics of implementing COMAR requirements (if reductions are made)
- The benefits and challenges of using virtual learning in various high-level high school classes
- Class size implications resulting from the reduction of teaching positions, particularly in elementary schools
- Cost savings resulting from school closures (estimated $500K per school)
- Use of fund balance for small capital and maintenance projects (since no State funding is received for these)
- PVHS field house project (CAC recommended that the project is not a priority and not necessary at this time.)
- MPIA request from the County Executive
- Available county revenue and funds per their ACFR
- Charter government rules and budget timeline

Adjournment

Mr. Ferdinando thanked all for attending. He will not be sharing the voluntary contact list of CAC members at this time. Information regarding the next meeting will be sent to CAC members via email. *(The date may change due to a County Council meeting conflict on March 19.*