



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CECIL COUNTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CENTER

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Superintendent of Schools

Dianne L. Heath
President, Board of Education

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Board member and CAC committee chairperson Mr. Brian Hampton welcomed CAC members and reviewed the agenda.

There were 26 total attendees: 24 CAC members and 2 presenters.

Title 4

Mr. Hampton introduced Mr. Justin Zimmerman, Manager for Grant and Blueprint Administration.

Mr. Zimmerman presented an overview of the Title IV grant purpose and application process and solicited priorities from attendees on the best use of grant funds. Throughout the presentation and group discussions, Mr. Zimmerman explained that Title IV grants must be used to augment funding for services or applications that are already available within CCPS - a Title IV grant cannot be used to procure a new service or application. Mr. Zimmerman thanked attendees for their input, which will support the Title IV grant application.

FY27 Budget Presentation

Dr. Jeff Lawson, CCPS Superintendent, introduced Chief Financial Officer Ms. Denise Sopa.

Ms. Sopa presented an overview of the FY27 budget process and key considerations in the preparation of the CCPS budget request. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Statutory per pupil State Blueprint Funding requirements
- Revenue sources and anticipated amounts
- A breakdown of the unrestricted budget by Education Services and Administrative Services
- Position reductions from FY26 to FY27 with anticipated funding

Discussion topics throughout the presentation included:

- The current year's expense execution rate
 - This year's expense rate is similar to recent years
- How position reductions will occur

- Position reductions will occur primarily through attrition by not backfilling all employee retirements and resignations
- If FY27 revenues are less than anticipated, further service and position cuts will be necessary

Adjournment

Mr. Hampton thanked all for attending and encouraged continued engagement throughout the budget request process. CCPS will ask for the Board's approval of the budget request at the 25 February budget hearing.