

Notes from PAC Meeting on April 5, 2017

Dr. Kizner started the meeting right after everyone introduced themselves. No interpretation was necessary as all attendees spoke English.

Dr. Kizner mentioned he will send a survey to all members asking about better days/times for future meetings (1st. Wednesday of May). Also, he mentioned the upcoming thank you dinner at the Italian restaurant.

- Started his presentation about the budget. Explained that the School Board has to approve it first, then it goes to the City Council for approval (next Tuesday). Explained the alignment of the budget with the Mission and Core Beliefs as well as the guiding Principles of the School Board.
- Mentioned that enrollment keeps increasing almost to a 5%, still more room to grow. Talked about accomplishments within the system such as the Arts Department awards, the increase of students pursuing the Advance Diploma, more kids stay and finish school, STEM and Languages Academies. Looking for collaborative programs and explained the new models of teaching.
- Talked about the 5.46% increase of the in the state revenues according to the enrollment and adjustments. Explained the chart of History of local Funding comparing the percentages for year 2008-09 versus the upcoming 2017-18. Mentioned how some personnel have several hats under they function (ex. J. Aldrich) as it is time for others to retire from the system. Also mentioned Ms. Zahner and the new program she will start. Looking to expand the middle schools' sports leagues and work cooperatively with Rockingham athletics and our system. Welcome Center moving to Keister next year. Mentioned programs at the elementary level for kids with disabilities. Another award for the system is the one for "Breakfast in the classroom". Should the city turn pupil transportation over to the school system? - Discussion for next year.
- Invited parents to follow and comment if you support this budget. Also, to get on the Web Page to find out more details about Dr. Kizner's Budget Presentation and Enrollment Projections, as he presents the three options: new high school, the Annex or building on existing building. The School Board and the City Council will meet on this on June 8th, 2017.
- Question at the table: Is there any sense of how many people moved to Harrisonburg because of the equality of the system? No, there is not, but people come because they believe we have a strong system, people have appreciation of what we have to offer, that is why we invest in our schools. Dr. Kizner invited parents to visit the city Council Web Page and voice their opinions. Another way to do it is person to person through appointments or even emails. Attending the public hearings is another great way to get involved. We heard from a very thankful mother from Puerto Rico who has a daughter in the Special Education Program.
- The High School Space Study Committee will have a meeting on May 4th. There will be a public forum on May 11th at Harrisonburg High School.
- There was another question: Why we do not have the Dual Language program at SSES? Not enough teachers for now. If the program at Keister has free seats, then we will offer a lottery options for those who would like to participate there.

The committee adjourned after some comments among participants.