

Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council
Wednesday, November 6, 2013
Fairfax High School

November Minutes

There was a handout provided on the budget and process

Dr. Garza addressed the STAC by discussing the Portrait of a Graduate committee, discussing how the committee functioned and updating us on its progress. She provided an opportunity for STAC reps to provide input on the committee (a questionnaire was distributed to the reps), and reminded all staff that their input is appreciated and desired. She will keep us updated on progress with this, as more information becomes available.

She then discussed the budget, next. Her concern is that this the community does not believe the financial situation is REAL. Dr. Garza is now meeting with all of the county supervisors in regards to situation, and is making sure they are aware of her concerns.

The \$140 million shortfall is significant. How will we deal with this? First of all, if you are a county resident, YOU NEED TO CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR! It is important that we advocate, communicate and educate them on this. It is unlikely that the supervisors will be able to 'cover' all of the additional revenue that we will be requiring (we would need 8%; they are offering 2%). We need to look forward (beyond this year), as well. It will be important that we discontinue this problem (revenue; long term funding strategy missing) now!

Our superintendent wants us to be at the 'top of the pay scale' within five years, in order to stay competitive and keep the best teachers. In order to do that, we may have to make some significant changes. We may start looking at different scheduling (could be students taking less classes, different number of periods in a day, etc.) and other 'formats'. A committee will be formed soon to explore this. NO CHANGES would be made for another year (at least), so this will not save us money this year.

We may need to change our needs based staffing parameters ('qualifiers'), as well. This is being explored. They will always make sure that the schools that need the most get the resources for our students.

We will need to make cuts. The supervisors may need to move on a meal's tax. There is some discussion amongst this with them now. It would be a while before any of this could actually occur or be implemented (to effect the financial situation).

Dr. Garza referred to a handout (possible cuts; same one used with the SB – it will be revised and re-posted on Friday). This list will change throughout the budget process. It is an 'evolving' document. They are trying to be 'genuine' with potential cuts so that FCPS is not 'antagonizing' the situation by listing cuts that will just 'irritate the supervisors'. Dr. Garza responded to questions on the budget from STAC members (various items)...