

Oct 30, 2012; Parents, community leaders, elected officials, and interested citizens met this evening to review the quality of Fayette County's public education and its supporting budget.

The group agreed that the county academic goal shall be to **provide our children with the best public education in GA, while spending no more than our revenues.**

Given projected budget deficits for the 2012-2013 FY, the group identified a number of initiatives to help achieve the goal:

#### GENERAL

- Publicize our Fayette County education goal, inform all county residents, and solicit their active support for it.
- Compete with private schools for students, based on student outcomes and cost
- Seek sources to fund a college and career academy that is responsive to students' plans and the job market
- Promote a "one team, one goal" effort to achieve the goal by elected members of the County Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, city governments, business leaders, service organizations, community leaders, parents & other citizens

#### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Implement annual zero-based budgeting
- Develop and implement much more accurate revenue & expense forecasting
- Provide on-line visibility of the current budget
- Establish/review existing authority levels for approving various expense thresholds

#### PERSONNEL

- Conduct position audits to validate that every position is necessary to support our education goal- from para-pros to the Superintendent
- Review all FCBE deviations from GA State staffing rules to determine whether they're essential to achieve our education goal
- Hire an interim "turn-around" superintendent to identify and implement cost-cutting measures, followed by a permanent superintendent to sustain sound management & leadership
- Develop and publicize criteria for holding the office of Superintendent and senior administrators (which must include successful financial management)

#### OPERATIONS

- Implement annual zero-based budgeting
- Develop, maintain, and use an accurate demographic data base to:
  - Determine program requirements
  - Support decisions to operate or close schools

- Establish, confirm, and modify school attendance zones
- Revise feeder patterns as necessary
- Promote and monitor accomplishment of collaboration across school, PTO, and divisions
- Maximize classroom time-subject mastery using techniques of reverse homework, students tutoring students; ("Khan Academy", see 60 Minutes video: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7401696n>)
- Observe other districts implementation of cross-county enrollment programs
- Explore programs to utilize facilities year-round
- Review GA laws, county & city ordinances that may constrain our ability to accomplish our goal, recommend amendments, and present to appropriate elected officials for introduction & passage.
- Conform to GA school bus pick-up standards (children living 1.5 miles or more from school, instead of the half mile distance Fayette uses).

#### FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Conduct an audit of all Department of Education real property (land & structures) to validate that it is necessary to support the education goal
- Solicit energy/other expense saving measures from the FCBE team (prize and recognition for winners at each school and other major facility)
- Seek out districts with highly efficient bus maintenance programs to determine which provisions we may be able to import

#### INCREASE THE NUMBER of PARNTS INVOLVED WITH THEIR SCHOOLS

- Encourage a positive experience during the first interface with parents (instead of its focus on a negative aspect of a student's behavior)
- Seek parental commitment early- at the first PTO/PTA/Club meeting when attendance is usually highest
- Maximize all forms of communications with parents: notes home, twitter, facebook sites, on-line visibility of homework assignments, e-mail
- Make appointments with individual parents who are inactive- reach out to them one-on-one.
- Develop inter-school benchmarking to ID which ones are most successful; use results to raise involvement at schools with less parental involvement.
- Actively promote "team chatter" among PTOs, PTAs to exchange successful ideas.
- Take advantage of national PTO development programs.