



P.O. Drawer 140, 100 Central Circle  
Low Moor, VA 24457

## **Minority Advisory Committee to the Superintendent** Meeting Summary Notes: February 13, 2017

*Meeting Summary Notes are intended to serve as the superintendent's reflection on the discussions that occur during advisory committee meetings. They are not intended to be exhaustive. Instead, they are intended to serve as a general record for our on-going efforts to assess our needs, determine our goals, map out our strategies, and evaluate our policies, procedures and programs. Participants should contact the superintendent if they observe any critical oversight or misinterpretation in these notes.*

Participants present: Alisa Morgan, Etrula Moore, Patricia Ross, Nancy Moga (CES principal), Ingrid Barber, Mary Jane Mutispaugh (Dir. of Instruction), Fred Vaughan (Dir. of HR and Pupil Personnel), Lorie Bess (Admin. Asst.), and Eugene Kotulka (Superintendent)

1. Mr. Kotulka gave an update on the One-to-One Initiative. He reported the delivery of Chromebooks at the high school has been successful.
2. Mr. Kotulka discussed project-based learning environments and the proposed New Tech program to be held at JRTC. He stated the program is currently scheduled to begin with the 2018 school year. In the program, students will do research, create a project and present the project at the end of the year. A participant noted she was a vocation teacher in the past and she would love to see this type of program available for students again because not all students will go to college and need an alternate path.
3. Ms. Mutispaugh presented a handout detailing plans for Black History Month. She noted some activities may not occur, depending on the school schedule. She stated she would follow up at a future meeting to let everyone know which activities actually took place. Mr. Ross reminded everyone of the Soul Food tasting on February 16 at 6:30 p.m. He also reported that students requested famous inspiration quotes for the morning announcements during Black History Month. Mrs. Moga

discussed her Black History Month events. Ms. Morgan reported there would be a Black History Month assembly at MVES on February 28 at 1:30 p.m.

4. Mr. Vaughan reported he would be recruiting at Virginia State on March 21 and Hampton on March 22. He reported he has been to 4 recruiting events so far and out of the 105 sign-ins, only 8 were minority. He noted the first Minority Educator Summit would be held on Thursday in Richmond. He stated he hopes to utilize MAC members to meet with potential candidates and discuss with them what it is like living in this area.
5. Mr. Kotulka discussed the budget. He noted we expect to lose another 20 students next year. The budget currently has a deficit of \$41,000 but we do not have finalized information from the state at this time.
6. A participant asked if our salary scales are competitive with Covington's. Mr. Vaughan replied they are fairly competitive but it really depends on the employees' years of service. Mr. Kotulka added administration is working on developing new salary scales and we are committed to providing the best salaries we can for our employees, within our budget. He noted there would be a 7.5% increase in health insurance next year.
7. A participant stated she is concerned about discipline issues with minority students. Mr. Vaughan replied the numbers are actually a little lower than in the past and he hopes this trend will continue.
8. A student stated she does not use the Chromebook as much as she thought she would and she prefers paper/pencil over the Chromebook.
9. A student asked on behalf of seniors if graduation caps could be decorated. Mr. Ross replied they cannot because administrators want graduation to be a meaningful ceremony for the students.

**NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is at 11:30 a.m. on April 10 in the School Board meeting room at the Central Office Complex in Low Moor. A light lunch will be served.**

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