VP Advocacy Office Report, Laura Stewart

November 2020

This past month I have had the following meetings.

Black and Brown Coalition

The coalition had a forum on 10/15. They asked for more staff diversity, continued expanded opportunities, and more support for Black and Brown students during the Covid-19 emergency.

For question A and against B Coalition

We met to plan for advocacy. We are happy to announce that the effort was successful

Virtual Learning Committee

Request to meet with MCPS to discuss Outdoor Learning opportunities. We also asked for tech support to speak to MCCPTA. They will be attending a future DA. We added new members to the committee and will continue to advocate for more support during this emergency.

Health and Wellness Committee

Secured a meeting with MCPS staff regarding safety measures related to Covid-19. We will discuss HVAC, air quality, water quality, sanitizing procedures, and PPE

SSP Subcommittee, nearing the end!

The policy will have a vote on November 16th. Several issues have straw votes. See below

Vote on Moratoria: Unanimous vote to eliminate moratoria throughout the entire county.

Vote on zones that affect student generation rates: Voted to remove Greenfield from the zones, now down to 2, Infill and Turnover. Infill has lower student generation rates and will therefor pay for less impact. Housing types also have different rates.

Vote on percentage of Impact Covered: The cost per seat was 120% to cover land use. This has been reduced to 100% of the seat to cover the impact.

Vote on Impact Tax discounts: No discounts extra discounts were implemented. Student generation rates were reduced in this CIP for newer high-rise buildings so that they won’t pay more than their impact. They decided not to reduces rates on top of that adjustment.

Recordation Taxes were not covered and will finally go to council today after several delays. Note sent to membership to encourage them to take up this item which is integral to funding the CIP.

Yearly utilization test: They passed this as the Status Quo, if a project exceeds seats open by a certain percentage, they will pay the Premium Payment, unless they reduce the amount of units. This is instead of a Red light Green light system that does not count how many units a project might produce. This will make sure very large projects that add to overcrowding will pay the payments so that we may have more funds to complete a project.

Utilization Premium Payments will be paid in overcrowded areas. The council staff recommended they be paid in areas that have schools at 105% capacity at a lower rate, then at a higher rate at 120%, and an additional tier at 135%.. Will Jawando wanted a slightly higher rate, Friedson a lower rate. Friedson’s passed committee. There was a compromise between the 2 plans in full committee. This is a GREAT result for our schools. This now replaces moratoria.

In committee, they agreed that Past Enterprise Zones would now be subject to impact taxes, but new opportunity zones would be exempted from school impact tax. Going to the full council today. MCCPTA has asked for discounts for these zones so that we can capture some of that impact. We need diverse sources of revenue and full exemptions would be more difficult to make up for by other policies implemented. We also want to assure that we get matching dollars from the state’s Built to Learn Act.

Advocacy Committee, meeting 1 to 2 times a week

Finalized Advocacy Priorities. Attaching to meeting materials.

CIP Committee

CIP hearings have been completed.