VP Advocacy Office Report, Laura Stewart

August 2020

**Black and Blown Coalition, meeting every other week**

Discussing the 3 asks and movement towards resolution, including access to rigorous coursework, access to diverse, experienced and effective teachers, and access to effective school leadership. We are also advocating for appropriate supports during the Covid emergency.

**SSP Subcommittee, met once a month**

Katya Marin is leading our committee. We analyzed the final proposed Growth Plan that passed the Planning Board. Will share a summary of the plan.

Highlights:

Moratoria will only be in Clarksburg area. In Clarksburg, if there is a school that is nearby at 105% capacity, or less, then no moratorium will be implemented. Over 90% of county will have no moratoria or a review by the planning board.

Impact Taxes will be discounted in areas where growth is desired.

Recordation Taxes will be progressive, making up for some of the revenue lost by Impact Tax discounts.

Utilization Payments will be paid in overcrowded areas.

Past Enterprise Zones would now be subject to impact taxes.

**Advocacy Committee, meeting 1 to 2 times a week**

Finalizing the next draft to the Advocacy Priorities.

**Charter Amendments**

I testified on behalf of MCCPTA in order to encourage the council to pass a charter amendment that would do 2 things: Go to a super majority vote in order to pass a property tax increase (which fund schools) and to eliminate the total county cap on property tax revenues, which forced rate decreases over the last 3 years and reduced potential increases in revenue. I quoted the advocacy priority under Operating Budget and shared that we did not have a vote.

The amendment that passed council did not remove the unanimous requirement, but did change the revenue cap requirement. Do we want to support this?

Robin Ficker championed another amendment (Question B) that would bar any tax increases beyond inflation, even if there was a unanimous vote. Do we want to advocate against this? There is a coalition that will actively work against this, including MCEA.