

4/19/16 LPC Forum Question/Concerns/Comments

The following is a list of concerns voiced at the public Forum on 4/19/16. There were not a lot of questions asked but those that were are included here with the answer. Most were suggestions or thoughts for the LPC to consider.

- Can there be an employee tax (payroll tax) levies that will help with school revenue?
 - *This is done in many counties and communities. It is, however, not under the authority of the LPC or the school board to enact this.*
- Why don't we apply for a waiver with the state and hold off on the LPC?
 - *First of all, to file for the waiver does not guarantee that it will be given. Our reasoning would be suspect since we are working to overcome financial difficulties and a district facility plan could uncover many opportunities to relieve financial problems. More importantly, the waiver is for four years so we would essentially be asking the state to allow our district to continue in its current situation for four more years without changing anything. The price tag for this decision could cost the district its contingency fund over the next three years and would be the equivalent of doing nothing.*
- Make it better for teachers. If we make it hard on teachers they will leave. A teacher left TCHS last year because "we were making it hard on teachers."
 - *It is important to understand that TCHS was a priority school for the past three years and were under state assistance. State assistance of any kind is not pleasant. If there were staff that left during that time I do not consider it a loss when I think of those who were there and stayed; those who worked hard to get TCHS out of priority status even when things were tough. We have great teachers.*
- The statement was made during the forum that school district has automatically passed the 4% tax for years.
 - *It is important to speak in facts as we present information. This is all a part of public record. In (2011-2012), (2012-2013), (2013-2014), and (2014-2015) the district chose not to pass the 4% tax and instead took the compensating rate. (See document under LPC link entitled Tax Rate History)*
- Students are customers---we need to give them the educational product they deserve or they will leave the district and the funding that comes with them will leave as well.
 - *This is the focus of the LPC, how do we place our district in a position to offer the best educational product to our students, more importantly how does that help to attract students back to our district.*

- **Transparency throughout the LPC is to be commended. I would like it if the reports the LPC have were provided to the public.**
 - *The documents and presentations of all the meetings are posted on the district website under Local Planning Committee. Documents will not be posted to the public until after the meeting so that the LPC has first access to the information.*
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It was also asked before during the forum on 4/19/16 why the rules are set the way they. This referred to the rule that during the forum the LPC will not respond to those making public comment. At this time it has been verified through KDE and KSBA that the members are allowed to ask questions of those speaking at the forum.