
4/29 Public Comments

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To John Adelodun <AdeloduJ@charlescountymd.gov>

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Ever heard of these Oxymorons?

“I have a terrible memory. I never forget a thing.”

“Plastic silverware.”

“Unbiased opinion.”

And here’s another one: **EACC-backed underfunding.**

I spent 18 years as a special educator and served as a union rep in Virginia and Baltimore City, so I’m struggling to understand how the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) endorses two current Commissioners who supported a decrease in nearly 4.5% from FY20-26, yet expect the public to take that endorsement seriously. Make it make sense.

Honestly, I don’t fault the commissioners for playing both sides. It’s political campaign season and free advertising is always better than paid advertising.

What I do take issue with is EACC using elected officials and the public to create the illusion of a true democratic endorsement process. If this was really about teachers’ voices, they should have held their own forum for educators, let teachers ask questions directly, then allowed members to vote. For those who couldn’t attend, send the forum recording and let them vote by email afterward. That would be transparency. That would be democracy.

Instead, it feels like leadership decided for teachers because they don’t trust teachers to decide for themselves. And now, after endorsing officials who aren’t delivering the funding they claim to fight for, they want to complain? THEY endorsed them.

So the EACC frustration is unwarranted and raises a basic question...if funding was the issue, why endorse commissioners tied to the very outcome being criticized?

Teachers stay when two things exist together...fair pay and manageable working conditions. When either breaks down, we see turnover, shortages, and instability.

At the same time, full funding requires honest trade-offs. It's not realistic to oppose residential growth, commercial expansion, data centers, and tax increases all at once while expecting significantly higher school funding. Those positions conflict with each other. Every public agency is competing for limited resources, so there has to be a clear distinction between needs and wants.

The reality is that no matter the pay, shortages will continue if working conditions aren't addressed whether that's student behavior, workload, or professional climate. Pay alone cannot fix that, just as conditions alone cannot replace fair compensation.

If the Charles County Public Schools and the EACC want to recruit and retain educators then pay and working conditions must improve at the same time as well as elected leaders starting to be creative, having realistic revenue solutions instead of assuming the math will work itself out.

V/r,

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