

**Maryland Youth Advisory Council**  
**Frederick County Community Conversation**  
**January 23, 2017**  
**Library**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

<b>Assets and Strengths in Frederick County</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good school staff</li> <li>• IB and ATS programs well dispersed</li> <li>• Strong sense of community</li> <li>• Community parks</li> <li>• Size of county</li> <li>• Career tech programs – well advertised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual enrollment programs</li> <li>• Frederick Community College – good school</li> <li>• Frederick Fair</li> <li>• In-the-Streets</li> <li>• First Saturday Diversity</li> <li>• Libraries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit System</li> <li>• Mayor Randy McClement</li> <li>• Superintendent</li> <li>• Proximity to D.C, Annapolis, Baltimore – 20 minutes to everywhere</li> <li>• Economic Development and Infrastructure</li> </ul>

<b>Problems, Issues, and Concerns in the Community</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Substance abuse</li> <li>• Public school funding v v</li> <li>• College readiness/information v</li> <li>• Accessibility of standardized testing</li> <li>• School staffing/guidance v</li> <li>• Support for students with disabilities</li> <li>• Not enough advertising /accessibility of programs for students with disabilities v</li> <li>• Advertising educational opportunities – internships; online opportunities for help/support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Scheduling – graduation requirements v</li> <li>• Not the same opportunities at different schools – funding v</li> <li>• Ability to complete homeless without internet access</li> <li>• Cancer awareness</li> <li>• Technology in schools v v</li> <li>• Late/attendance policy v</li> <li>• Lack of trauma center in Frederick</li> <li>• School technology protocols</li> <li>• Financial accessibility of technology in schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School age, maintenance and replacement v</li> <li>• Lunch healthiness/freshness v v</li> <li>• School safety with portable buildings</li> <li>• Classroom capacity issues/class size v</li> <li>• School traffic/parking v</li> <li>• AP/FCC credits – distinction of rigor and which to promote to students v v v</li> <li>• Keeping officials from doing stupid stuff</li> <li>• Open campus</li> </ul>

<b>Prioritized Issue Areas</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public School Funding</li> <li>2. FCC/IB/AP/Honors Classes</li> </ol>

<b>Causes of Lack of School Funding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough need for more money – Frederick County is a well performing school system</li> <li>• Funding is based on student participation, not on cost of the program</li> <li>• Discrepancies in booster funding – not equal distribution of money raised</li> <li>• Lack of transparency and understanding of the budget and funding process</li> <li>• State formula favors larger schools</li> <li>• Success of schools/counties is based on test scores</li> <li>• Students do not have enough resources to perform well on tests = less funding</li> <li>• Strains on budget create strains on staffing</li> <li>• Systems don't save for future expenses</li> <li>• Building new schools/renovating old schools take up too much of the budget – cannot afford</li> <li>• All of the old schools need renovations</li> </ul>

**Causes of Confusion Between FCC/IB/AP/Honors Classes**

- Scheduling conflicts force students to choose what class fits schedule and not student's best interests
- Unclear to students what are the differences and benefits of each type of class
- Limited availability – some classes are offered every-other-year or at the same time as another class
- Not a clear distinction of rigor for each type of class
- Class options are not well advertised
- Class options need to be outlined and shared earlier in the school year and the career of students
- Academic competitiveness driving course decisions
- Lack of guidance in decision-making process
- Differences in the number of credits a course receives, both in high school and college
- No transportation to Frederick Community College – disincentive for students to take
- Lack of opportunity for freshman to take AP level courses

**Solutions for FCC/IB/AP/Honors Classes**

- Create something a brochure, flyer, etc, outlining the differences between the types of classes
- More knowledgeable counselors about the class options
- Provide information earlier in the year – during registration or orientation
- Host info nights for students to learn about the different program options
- More concise registration information
- Allow students to skype into classrooms where programs are not offered at their school
- More teachers = more funding
  - Don't make teachers teach unfamiliar subjects
- Reducing the number of graduation requirements