

## Board of County Commissioners

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## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cooperative Effort Yields Education Funding Resolution

**Westminster, Tuesday, April 4, 2017** – Today, Carroll County Public Schools Superintendent Stephen Guthrie appeared before the Carroll County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and revealed his intention to submit a budget to the Board of Education (BOE) to match the proposed FY18 Recommended Budget of \$186.8 million. The next step is for the Board of Education to approve Mr. Guthrie's requested budget.

With the FY17 budget being \$181.8 million and the BOE FY18 requested budget being \$190.8 million, there was a significant divide. Balancing the FY18 budget will be a group effort. The BOC provided a \$5 million increase over the FY17 budget, Governor Hogan signed a measure to allocate \$1.6 million in additional school funding to Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) to offset the loss from state funding due to state formulas, and the remaining difference was eliminated due to BOE and CCPS staff diligent efforts to reduce costs.

Steve Guthrie, Superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools said the gap was eliminated by the strength of the work from the three partners and gave credit to the Combined Education Committee (CEC) as a starting point of greater communication for the three groups. The CEC was created mutually by the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education in May 2016. The group, made up of county officials, members of the state delegation and community members, mutually identified a purpose statement of "To reduce the funding gap between expenditures and revenues while maintaining a quality education system."

The CEC concluded its meetings in November 2016 with all involved parties challenged to identify solutions for reducing the funding gap for Carroll County Public Schools. The committee met for several months to gather information and collect data and ended with the members leaving the table with over fifty suggestions to take back to their respective colleagues to consider.

"Carroll County has once again demonstrated its ability to take on great challenges, work cooperatively and find solutions that benefit the county and serve the tax payers," noted Commissioner Doug Howard, District 5, "I commend the Board of Education, the Delegation and my colleagues for their extraordinary effort, and the Governor for his continued commitment to education in Carroll County."

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