

Dear EACC Members,

Here are the updates through May 22, 2015:

Negotiations started on May 4, 2015 and are continuing. As soon as there are any updates on negotiations, Courtney will fill you in.

EACC made quite an impact at the Commissioners' Budget Hearing on May 20, 2015 with our red shirts, mass of passionate educators, and numerous speakers. We wanted to fill the auditorium, and fill it we did! At the beginning of the hearing it was standing room only and there was a veritable **sea of red** in the room! Here are some of the highlights:

- We fed approximately 130 people hot dogs at our pre-hearing Tailgate.
- **We had a FANTASTIC turnout** –we had at least 137 people at the hearing (but there may have been more)!
- Our youngest lobbyist was 5 years old who held up a sign and wore our t-shirt, there was a very well-spoken 10 year old who wants to be a teacher (who attends Dr. Mudd Elementary) who spoke, and there were 2 North Point High School students who spoke as well.
- There are pictures and a link to the speeches on our Facebook page.
- We had a drawing with the names of those who attended and/or spoke at the budget hearing. The winners are:
 - Sherri Russell from Lackey HS
 - Amy Haliscak from Indian Head ES
 - Ryan Newsted from Davis MS
 - Pomie Radcliff from Matula ES
 - Sarah Williams from Somers MS
- We hope to **spark a conversation out in the community** with the messages on our red shirts. A member from La Plata HS told us recently that several people asked her in the grocery store what her shirt meant, and she was able to tell them some of the issues

and concerns we have, as well as what teachers are fighting for. Their response was “Good luck, y’all are awesome!”

The comment period for this budget hearing is 10 days. Even if you weren’t able to make it to the budget hearing, you can still contact the County Commissioners with your commentary. Contact them at: countycommissioners@CharlesCountyMD.gov

The Commissioners will vote on the budget on June 9th.

I am still doing the “**Coffee and Chat with Linda**” sessions at local Panera restaurants. Members have been coming and sharing their concerns with me and asking questions, so please keep coming out to talk to me! The next “Coffee and Chat with Linda” will be at the Waldorf Panera on **Tuesday, May 26th from 6-8 PM**. I hope to see you there!

The **EACC Annual Crab Feast** is **August 21, 2015**. It’s a GREAT way to celebrate the beginning of a new school year and spend time with friends as you enjoy all-you-can-eat crabs (and hamburgers and hot dogs, too!). There will be a DJ and lawn games, too.

Crab Feast Ticket sales began on May 10, 2015. Go to our website, www.teameacc.org and purchase yours early! Tickets are \$20 until June 20th, and then the price goes up to \$30.

- The Crab Feast is **ONLY** for CCPS employees and CCPS retirees and one guest.
- To enter the crab feast you must have your ticket and school ID.
- The Crab Feast is for adults only (21 and older).

Have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Linda McLaughlin