

Members of WES PTA attended the County Executive Community Meeting and are providing notes pertaining to public schools on this meeting:

**WES PTA Meeting Notes from January 31, 2014 meeting
with Baltimore County Executive in Catonsville**

- Opening remarks by K. Kamenetz
 - Baltimore County (BC) is financially secure
 - AAA bond rating again, 25th year of no increase in property tax
- K. Kamenetz is focusing on 3 main areas (will share the public education notes below)
 - Public Education
 - Public Safety
 - Re-investing in aging infrastructure
- Public Education
 - K. Kamenetz feels that strong schools = strong communities
 - when the quality of schools increases the neighborhoods get better
 - BC has been investing in their schools but still have lots of older schools
 - BC has been getting lots of money from the state but also has more than matched funds given.
 - Kamenetz wants to move from reactive fixes to a pro-active plan for schools
 - enrollment growing every year – must improve old schools and add more seats
 - Kamenetz really likes the BCPS comprehensive plan and wants to push it as a WHOLE plan, not have individual communities push only their part – need to show a united front to the State to secure funding for entire plan.
 - this plan will deal with the population projections of the next 10 years
 - the plan now moves to the State inter-agency council and public works for approval/rating.
 - the State IAC gave grades of mainly C's to the SW area BCPS plan except for the Westchester addition that received an A grade. Kamenetz said this is due to fact that the SW plan was only recently decided upon and therefore BC has not had enough time to create actual plans. It is the county that creates the plans that the State then approves. This is a preliminary grade so the grade can change and most likely will improve over time. *In the meantime Kamenetz will be fully supporting the plan and wants parents to write letters to the State Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer to show their support for funding the BCPS comprehensive public school plan since this issue is coming up soon with the state's board of public works meeting.*

Therefore, WES PTA is holding a post card campaign this week. We hope you will participate.