**Community Meeting Minutes 8-10-17**

* Meg welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview
  + Passed around sign-up sheets for our working groups to address specific issues
* Gave an update that the Harlin Daycare Center had been torn down and the lot cleared
* Gary Horton gave an overview of a meeting the DEP Secretary
  + Goal is transparency – working towards collaborative tours of facilities
  + Use the DEP to make a positive change especially in regards to Erie Coke
    - We believe the chemicals from Erie Coke are hurting us, our kids, and our environment
    - GE Refrigeration owns an entire abandoned block
    - American Mirrors has an old tunnel to school – what is in it?
  + Ask DEP for a health study
* Gary Horton gave an update on the accomplishments of the multicultural school this summer
  + They had over 100 students in grades preK-6th
  + They paid 13 students $500
  + They had 8 Summer Jam students
  + They read 6 books
  + They created a tolerance video
* Gary Lee from the County Executive’s Office came to speak about the community college initiative
  + Empower Erie did a feasibility study and college plan – County of Erie took over
    - They discovered a need for a community college and submitted plan to Harrisburg
  + Process to be approved for a school can last up to one year, and will involve public hearings
  + Application submitted for 2018-2019 investments from state department of Education
  + How will it be different from the other colleges in Erie
    - Offers mostly Associates Degrees and Certificates
    - Focuses on non-traditional students
    - Programs will include manufacturing and engineering, automation engineering, computer technologies, electrical, welding, media, accounting, management, human relations, medical assistants and techs.
  + Don’t yet know the location, want to be in city limits, possibly include satellite schools
  + Will include 2+2 transfers to other colleges and allow high school students to complete college credits
  + It will be open enrollment, cost $105 per credit or $2400 per year
  + Board of trustees headed by 9 individuals to decide all aspects of college with respect to community needs
  + Focus on building workforce in Erie to lower unemployment rate
  + The college itself will create many jobs
* Brian Polito from the Erie School District came to speak about the changes within the district this year
  + School starts on Aug. 28th
  + ServeErie has adopted several classrooms at Erie High to get in shape for students
  + There will be transportation for all high school students who live more than 2 miles from the school
    - The high school will have 30 kids per class
    - School will run from 8-2:55 at Erie High and 8:10-2:50 at Collegiate
  + There will be transportation for elementary students who live more than 1.5 miles from the school and hopefully move it back to 1 mile after the first year
    - Elementary schools will have 25 kids per class
    - School will run from 9:20-3:40
  + There will be lots of crossing guards available to ensure safety of children
  + Buses will run to and from community centers to make it easier to get kids to school
  + Many after school programs have been moved to before school
    - At elementary schools programming before school is free and educational (not daycare)
  + There is a link on website for all back to school information
    - Immunizations are REQUIRED
    - Includes application for bus passes (also available in person) and maps to see if your family quailifies
    - The first two weeks no bus pass is needed
  + The middle schools will have more electives and career preparations
  + Working on turning defunct schools into business opportunities
    - Burton school accepting public bids (call center?)
  + The Recovery Academy will continue to function to help students raise grades and graduation rates
    - Have about 160 students registered