**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