

2017 - 2018 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – September 11, 2017

Education Center, Room 101

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:05 PM.

1. Welcome

- a. Welcome and introductory remarks were made by Dr. Patrick Murphy
 - i. Overall a successful opening of the school year; there are always a few minor hiccups
 - ii. APS continues to see an increase in enrollment; about 800+ students
 1. The numbers are still fluctuating and it is anticipated they will be around the projections at 27,000 students
 2. The official enrollment is finalized September 30th
 - iii. The Arlington County manager was directed by the County Board (as a part of last spring's budget approval) to engage with the APS Superintendent to produce a budget-neutral budget based on expected Revenue; versus in the past, which was a needs-based budget
 1. Budget direction will be forth coming around September 21
 - iv. Dr. Murphy appreciates the support the BAC has provided to his budgets in the past
 - v. APS has lots of big projects underway – encouraged the BAC to attend the APS Open House on September 23rd to hear more details
- b. Welcome and introductory remarks were made by School Board Liaison Tannia Talento
 - i. Budget is one of the most important parts of the School Board's job
 - ii. This year the Board will be focused on the Cost per student – they want to contain or reduce this, which will be hard during a growing enrollment period

2. Introductions

- a. Eleven members were present: Ainsley Stapleton, Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, Gianmaria Vanzulli, Heather Jones, Heather Wathington, Jennifer Wagener, Matt Hochstein, Matt deFerranti, Michael Bruce, Michael Shea, and Robert Ramsey; APS staff members Leslie Peterson and Tameka Lovett-Miller; and School Board Liaison Tannia Talento. Also attending were School Board Members Barbara Kanninen (Chair) and Reid Goldstein (Vice Chair), and Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy.
- b. BAC members shared individual bios

3. Minutes - Approval of May and June meeting minutes

4. Public Comments - None

5. Liaison Updates (ACI, FAC, JFAC, ACTC)

- a. Cecilia will be our liaison to FAC
- b. Michael will be our liaison to ACI

6. Staff Update

- a. FY 2019 has a \$25 million deficit based on current funding plans (including step increase, year 2 of compensation increases), enrollment and expected Revenue projections
- b. As mentioned previously, the County Manager was directed to work with the APS Superintendent to develop a budget that was not needs-based, but based on Revenue that is available. The County doesn't want to see a budget that isn't balanced. Additional items can be added on to represent other needs, under the terms of the Revenue sharing language.
 - i. Estimate to get an additional \$10.7 million of Revenue in the next budget – this would cover only the needs related to enrollment growth, but not much else
 1. Enrollment portion is around \$8 million
 - ii. Will require reductions to make this work
 - iii. Superintendent needs direction from School Board on how this will all be put together
- c. It will be a challenging budget year but 2020 will be even more challenging since APS will be bringing on 3 new buildings (and the operating costs associated with that)
- d. Action items:
 - i. BAC members should review the 2020 budget guidance in last year's adopted budget (https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Budget_FY2018_Adopted_Final_ForWeb.pdf) (MdF: Pages 30 to 33)
 - ii. BAC members to review the costs to bring Discovery Elementary online (from the 2016 budget) (http://aps-legacy.materiell.com/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/99/Budget_FY2016_Adopted_Final_ForWeb_093015.pdf) (MdF: Page 34)
 - iii. BAC members to review the language in the Revenue sharing principles with the County [To be done.]
 - iv. BAC members to review the context around the budget adoption motion that provided the budget guidance [See the 2nd attachment]

7. School Board Comments

- a. Barbara and Reid shared the draft APS School Board priorities
 - Updated strategic plan – including community engagement
 - Policies focused on 1:1 initiatives, devices, and inclusion
 - Support and empowerment for teachers and staff
 - Strengthen school-family-community relationships
 - Boundaries for Elementary and Middle Schools
 - Developing the Education Center and Career Center for more High School seats
 - Developing the Reed School back into an Elementary School
 - Updated CIP (Capital Improvement Plan)
 - Stabilize and reduce the per student spending

8. Proposed Working Groups and Liaisons based on End of Year Report

- a. Discuss further in October meeting
- b. Ad hoc groups to advise the BAC
 - i. Means for finding efficiencies in APS's per pupil spending over time (planning factors evaluation and addressing structural deficits)

1. Lars will lead this
 2. Research on trade-off between student-teacher ratio and student achievement
 3. November 7th – county work session on planning factors
 - ii. Facilities – lower costs for constructing new schools
 1. Work with the Facilities Advisory Council (FAC) on the Capital Improvement Plan
 2. Cecilia will lead this
 - c. Action item: How do we need to structure these based on the legal regulations?
 - i. Matt to research further
 - ii. We believe the requirement is that we can do it, but we would need to advertise (first) any gatherings of more than two people
 - iii. What about phone conversations/meetings?
9. Agenda for October and November Meetings
 - a. October meeting:
 - i. Further discussion about proposed working groups and which area BAC members would like to support
 - ii. Education on planning factors (Finance team) with support from Dr. Nattress' office on the instructional impact
 - b. November meeting:
 - i. Enrollment projections
 - ii. Joint meeting with the FAC

The meeting concluded at 9:00pm.

Action item (for next meeting): Potentially need a phone call-in for the October meeting (for Gianmaria)