

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS

## MEETING AGENDA

April 11, 2016

Tuckahoe, Library

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|-------------|--|
| 6:30 – 7:00 | Tour   |
| 7:00 - 7:05 | Welcome  |
| 7:05 – 7:10 | Public Comment   |
| 7:10 - 7:10 | Approve Minutes  |
| 7:10 - 7:15 | Membership – Kelly King  |
| 7:15 - 7:20 | Yearly Report Planning – Kelly King  |
| 7:20 – 7:35 | Ed Spec Presentation/Discussion – Stacy Snyder   |
| 7:35 – 8:35 | CIP Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principal’s Meeting Update – Kelly King</li><li>• Community Forum Update/Planning – John Chadwick</li><li>• High School Subcommittee Update – Kelly King</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>   |
| 8:35 - 8:50 | Committee Assignments and Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCPTA – Don Weinstein</li><li>• Parks and Recreation – Pam Silberstein</li><li>• ACI – Bill Schimmel</li><li>• BAC &amp; Budget Workgroup</li><li>• Stratford and Wilson BLPC Updates – Jeff Turner, Miles Mason</li><li>• Project Updates – Benjamin Burgin</li></ul> |
| 8:50 - 9:00 | Wrap Up and Next Steps   |

**Next Meeting:** May 9, 2016, Carlin Springs Elementary School

### Up Coming Meetings:

- Budget Work Session #5: Tuesday, April 12, if needed
- CIP Community Stakeholder Meeting: Wednesday, April 13, Jefferson MS Auditorium
- Wilson BLPC: Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 PM
- *Tentative* NES@Jefferson Site BLPC/PFRC: Wednesday, April 20
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, April 21, 7:30 PM
- *Tentative* NES@Jefferson Site BLPC: Wednesday, May 4
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 7:30 PM
- CIP Work Session #1: Tuesday, May 10, Ed Center room 101
- CIP Work Session #2: Tuesday, May 17, Ed Center room 101

**Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2016**

Members in attendance: Ben Burgin, George Buzby, John Chadwick, Gerry Collins, Laura Saul Edwards, Michael Freda, Greg Greeley, Eric Harold, Kelly King, Lois Koontz, Zach Larnard, Greg Lloyd, Steve Maguire, Miles Mason, Ron Molteni, Heather Obora, John Peck, Bill Schimmel, Pam Silberstein, Stacy Snyder, Meg Tuccillo, Jeff Turner, Don Weinstein and Lionel White.

James Lander also attended most of the meeting.

1. Facility Tour: Principal Mitch Pascal provided a tour of Tuckahoe Elementary School. Of particular interest were the many innovative outdoor facilities, including a “Greek Temple”, a log cabin, and an amphitheater used for small group activities. It was noted that Tuckahoe uses some of their relocatables as FLES classrooms.
2. Welcome: Kelly King opened the meeting at 7:00 in the Tuckahoe library.
3. Approval of Minutes: The draft March minutes were approved without discussion.
4. Public Comment: Kelly asked if there were any citizens present who wished to address the FAC. Hearing no response, she moved to the next agenda item.
5. Membership: Kelly asked that each member, particularly those whose memberships expire this June, tell her by the end of the week if they wish to remain on the FAC for the 2016-17 school year. She noted that Don Weinstein’s third and final two-year term on the FAC ends this June, opening the position of FAC Secretary. Any member potentially interested in serving as FAC Secretary beginning in September may wish to contact Don for more information.

Kelly was asked if the FAC planned to hold any meetings this summer. She responded that such meetings, while possible if we receive special tasking from the School Board, were not typical.

6. Annual Report Planning: Kelly announced that work would soon begin on the FAC’s annual report to the School Board. Reference copies of last year’s report were included in the blue packet each member received in September, and an electronic link will be sent to each member.

The multi-page annual report will summarize the FAC’s many activities during the 2015-16 school year, and will become a public document available through the APS website. The FAC takes pride in publishing a well-written, comprehensive annual report that includes not only comprehensive text, including analyses of issues, but also a variety of informative photographs and diagrams supplied by

Facilities and Operations that serve as a record of APS facilities accomplishments. Individual members, as requested by Kelly, will draft the various sections of the report, which Don will consolidate and edit. Don noted that all members would electronically receive a series of incremental drafts to review, typically with short deadlines for comments.

7. Ed Spec Presentation/Discussion: At the request of Stacy Snyder, this agenda item was postponed until our May meeting.

8. CIP Update: The next section of the meeting was devoted to a lengthy discussion of various aspects of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

*Principal's Meeting Update*: Kelly and John Peck noted that they met the secondary principals, including for the three comprehensive high schools and all other secondary education programs, for about an hour to discuss CIP planning. Topics discussed included:

- How big is too big for a high school?
- What ideas do you have for addressing the capacity issues facing Arlington?
- How do choice programs impact the comprehensive high schools?
- Should APS consider 9<sup>th</sup> grade academies?
- Should the IB program be extended to other schools?

This generated a lengthy discussion amongst the FAC members, particularly on the topics of high school IB programs and the potential use of 9<sup>th</sup> grade academies. James Lander, a former Wakefield High School parent, commented that the Wakefield community is generally pleased with having a strong AP program and would wish to leave the IB program at Washington-Lee. Lois Koontz countered that the next wave of Wakefield parents (of which she is a part) might feel differently. Greg Lloyd offered his personal perspective on choice programs, having sent two children through them. Stacy offered several options for 9<sup>th</sup> grade academies consisting of 700-800 students. Laura Saul Edwards suggested that the Department of Instruction have more of a presence at FAC meetings to inform these discussions.

Eric Harold asked if minutes of the meetings with the principals would be published. John Peck responded that the meetings were intentionally informal and candid, and not appropriate for detailed minutes, but that brief outlines of the discussions could be drafted if desired by the FAC membership. Kelly agreed to send her rough notes to the FAC.

*Community Forum Update/Planning*: John Chadwick discussed the upcoming Community Forum, which will be held Wednesday, 13 April in the Jefferson Middle School cafeteria. Assistant Superintendent Connie Skelton will discuss large high schools versus smaller secondary programs. John Chadwick noted that updated studies were being prepared for the Career Center site that will examine parking and the possibility of eventually replacing the Fenwick building—now controlled by APS—with a larger structure. He also said that the

School Board had included the Arlington Tech program at the Career Center in its proposed budget, although the final maximum size of the program is still to be determined. Finally, he said that updated studies for renovation or replacement of the Ed Center structure were being prepared.

Meg Tuccillo discussed the feedback collected from previous forum attendees, stating that while imperfect, it helped to get a sense of where people saw the priorities. In response to comments from FAC members, Meg indicated that what she had conducted was not a formal survey, but instead an informal, non-scientific assessment of the views of some of the participants.

John Chadwick and Kelly encouraged FAC members to attend the Community Forum on 13 April to inform the discussion, noting that for this session the FAC members will not be needed as session facilitators.

*High School Subcommittee Update:* This item was largely a continuation of the preceding conversation, with more of a focus on the shortage of high school seats. The group prepared and presented a comprehensive matrix of options for the FAC.

Steve Maguire, who lives in the Career Center neighborhood, said that many of his neighbors were concerned that intensified use of the site would damage the neighborhood and asked that this be considered a factor in site selection. John Chadwick responded that he was aware of such concerns.

Greg Greeley shifted the conversation somewhat by commenting on the fact that available funding (mostly from bond issues) would not extend to build all of the additional elementary and secondary seats that would be needed throughout the County. Miles Mason agreed. Ron Molteni said he was increasingly pessimistic in the outlook for increasing school capacity. Miles suggested that the idea of building a fourth comprehensive high school be taken off the table completely, noting that there was not enough land or sufficient money to build such a school while meeting the other needs of APS. Many other members agreed. Laura Saul Edwards observed that "It's up to us to help advocate for the biggest bang for the buck".

Gerry Collins was invited to share his perspectives, based on his years in the classroom and current leadership role with the Arlington Education Association. He suggested that the idea of building a fourth comprehensive high school should be considered as a straw man that needs to be knocked down before focusing on more realistic options.

Lionel White and Lois liked the idea of repurposing the Hoffman-Boston Elementary School building, but recognized that the surrounding community would likely object to such a shift, given the historic nature of the building, which has long been a institution within Arlington's African-American community.

Greg Greeley suggested that we should be open to interim solutions, in lieu of a new comprehensive high school. Jeff Turner commented on Falls Church's partnership with a private company and wondered if Arlington County permitted such arrangements. James said that he knew of no express prohibition. John Chadwick thought that the County would have to first adopt a special ordinance permitting such an arrangement.

Steve Maguire cautioned members to remember that APS through Arlington County Government can borrow money at the lowest possible rates, meaning that any type of arrangement to lease space or work with private developers would be more expensive to APS.

John Chadwick said that the continued expansion of elementary schools (e.g., Ashlawn, McKinley, and Abingdon) is looking increasingly problematic due to the cost and construction issues. John also said that the CIP would likely include the recommendation for a North Arlington Working Group, patterned on the South Arlington Working Group that has now completed its work. This led to a brief exchange about the need for a second new elementary school in South Arlington in comparison to the growing need for yet another new elementary school in North Arlington.

Kelly distributed copies of worksheets representing the initial results from the High School Sub-Group brainstorming for the FAC to study. Lois commented that four scenarios were included.

#### 9. Committee Assignments and Reports:

- CCPTA: Don provided a three-minute review of the CCPTA's March meeting, which focused on external communications between the schools and the parents. John Chadwick was one of the featured speakers.
- Parks and Recreation: Pam Silberstein reported on their February meeting, where a resolution was adopted to ask Arlington to place more focus on acquiring parkland. The County Auditor may be looking at the process of land acquisition. The group is also concerned that Rosslyn lacks adequate multi-use space, and sees the new Wilson building as an opportunity to gain additional indoor space for the community.
- ACI: Bill Schimmel attended a recent meeting focused on Gifted and Talented students, who may comprise 30% of the APS population. Kelly added that she attended the ACI meeting to stir interest in the need for the BAC, FAC, and ACI to work more closely together and to understand how they may be able to help with the CIP as it relates to instruction. The ACI was interested in helping but did not see an easy way to do that as they are structured differently from the FAC and BAC.
- BAC: In place of the liaison report, James provided a brief update on recent budget-related actions of the School Board.
- Stratford BLPC: Jeff Turner said that the issue of the driveway connection is still quite contentious.
- Wilson BLPC: Miles said that the schematic design is going well, but that

parking remains a major issue, still to be resolved.

10. Project Updates: Ben Burgin had distributed a written version of the project updates prior to the meeting. The FAC members warmly congratulated him on the naming of his wife Jennifer Burgin as the Arlington Teacher of the Year for 2016.

11. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on 9 May 2016 at Carlin Springs Elementary School.