

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS

## MEETING AGENDA

February 9, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Ashlawn, Library

A brief tour of the Ashlawn addition/renovation will precede the regular meeting; please gather in the front entrance of the school at 6:30 p.m. The FAC meeting will be held in the Library at 7 p.m., following the tour.

**1. Welcome**

**2. Approve Minutes**

**3. School Board Charge – Abby Rafael**

**4. Discussion of FAC next steps – John Chadwick/Connie Skelton**

- Available Sites
- Identification of Needs
- Near term, short term and long term solutions
- Look at how we determine ‘Overcapacity’

**5. Committee Assignments and Reports**

- Community Facilities Study – Jason Rylander/Kelly King/Greg Greeley
- Projection/Capacity Subcommittee – Greg Greeley/Lionel White
- ACI – Rebecca Hunter
- CCPTA – Don Weinstein
- MC/MM Program – Heather Obora
- TJ Workgroup – Greg Greeley/Janine Velasco
- WRAPS – Kelly King/Heather Obora
- Abingdon – Christian Dorsey

**6. Project Updates – *Every other month (next month)***

**7. Wrap Up**

### Up Coming Meetings:

- Abingdon ES BLPC: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:30 PM
- Abingdon ES PFRC: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2015 at **8:00 AM**
  - Supt. FY 2016 Budget presentation & Budget Work session #1
- Abingdon ES BLPC: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at **5:00 PM**
  - Budget Work session #2
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:30 PM
- School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at **7:30 PM**
  - Budget Work session #3
- Abingdon ES BLPC: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at **7:00 PM**
  - Budget Work session #4
- Abingdon ES PFRC: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:30pm
  - Public Hearing on Supt. Proposed FY16 Budget
  
- Next FAC Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2015 – McKinley ES

**Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2015**

Members in attendance: Gerry Collins, Christian Dorsey, Laura Saul Edwards, Mike Freda, Greg Greeley, Eric Harold, Rebecca Hunter, Jennifer Jackson, Kelly King, Greg Lloyd, Miles Mason, Paul McAree, Jim Meikle, Bruce Merrill, Ron Molteni, Heather Obora, Scott Prisco, Abby Raphael, Jason Rylander, Bill Schimmel, Pam Silberstein, Meg Tucillo, Jeff Turner, Don Weinstein and Lionel White. John Chadwick was ill and unable to attend.

1. Facility Tour: Judy Apostolico-Buck, Principal, provided a tour of the newly expanded Ashlawn Elementary School. She pointed out the creative design elements used to smoothly integrate the old and the new wings. Ashlawn was formerly one of the smallest Arlington elementary schools whose student population has greatly expanded during the past decade.
2. Welcome: Jason Rylander opened the meeting at 7:00pm in the Ashlawn Library. He welcomed School Board member Abby Raphael, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Connie Skelton, and several senior members of the Department of Instruction who had been invited to participate in tonight's discussion.
3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 2014 meeting were approved without changes.
4. School Board Charge: Abby provided an overview of recent board activity. She began by reminding everyone that she serves as liaison between the FAC and the School Board, and is always pleased to attend our meetings.

Her comments included the following items:

- The School Board recently held a retreat where they discussed how to work with the County Board on joint issues such as finding space for a new elementary school in South Arlington.
- James Lander and Emma Violand-Sanchez recently met with Mary Hynes, the County Manager and the Superintendent in a leadership meeting to develop options for finding space for additional temporary and permanent seats.
- The AFSAP process is particularly important this year
- The county Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board has asked that elements of the Wilson School, which served as a public school from 1910 until 1968, be integrated into the new school structure planned for the site. Abby noted that little of the original structure remains intact due to extensive expansions and renovations over the years. This weakens the request, particularly given the mandate to make the most effective use of the site for the H-B Woodlawn and associated programs.
- With planning underway for a new middle school on the Stratford site, there will need to be boundary changes.

--The School Board is not immediately moving to Plan B (the expansion of two South Arlington elementary schools) in wake of the County Board's decision not to allow (at least for now) a new elementary school to be built on the Jefferson Middle School site.

--In response to a question from Paul McAree, Abby said that there were no plans to adjust South Arlington elementary school boundaries for the 2015-16 school year.

--The School Board will be focusing on where to house the Montessori and other programs.

--The Community Facilities Study, while including several FAC members, is answerable to the County Board, not to the School Board.

--The School Board will be emphasizing complete transparency in its planning process.

--While the School Board is ready to work with the County to review possible school locations, placing relocatables next to community centers is not equivalent to adding permanent seats in South Arlington, which Abby, as one school member, thinks we need to do, and have promised South Arlington that we would do.

5. Discussion of FAC Next Steps: Kelly King led this broad-ranging discussion of APS' needs and options, emphasizing South Arlington elementary schools and North Arlington middle schools. Kelly began by distributing copies of a briefing packet she had prepared to inform the discussion, which included a list of Arlington centers and parks. She wondered how the FAC could help with decisions regarding where programs are to be located. She welcomed the guests from the Department of Instruction and encouraged them to fully participate in the discussion.

Connie provided some informal thoughts, and briefly discussed the option of using the Madison Center to house a sixth grade academy. This led to a discussion of the separation of grades. Eric Harold wondered if charter schools might play a role in Arlington.

Bruce Merrill discussed the issue of secondary classrooms sitting empty for part of the day at some schools. This led to a discussion of scheduling software, both in current and future use. Connie said that there would be more collaboration and planning between teachers.

There was an extended discussion of the relationship between school buildings and the instructional programs they house. Don Weinstein again raised the feasibility of "black box" buildings configured to easily convert between grade levels and programs. Scott Prisco said that this was possible, and that most new APS construction is designed to be flexible. He then talked about the internal reconfigurations underway at schools such as Washington-Lee to expand the number of seats. In response to a question from Ron Molteni, Scott suggested that fire marshal limits on capacity would not be a factor in Arlington schools.

Jason discussed the roles of the Career Center and Patrick Henry Elementary School in the More Seats program. He wondered if the FAC was in a position to

provide much input, given the amount of flux in the space planning process. Abby responded by encouraging continued FAC input.

Jason suggested, for convenience of discussion, that the FAC refer to the middle school planned for the Stratford site as “Stratford Middle School”, and the new building planned for H-B Woodlawn as the “Wilson School”. These names may eventually change.

6. Committee Assignments and Ambassador Reports:

- CCPTA: Don Weinstein said that while he had not attended the January meeting due to it being on the same evening as the FAC meeting, he did have the minutes from the meeting. Of particular interest were comments from the Budget Advisory Council listing the primary reasons why APS’ cost per student was higher than that of some nearby jurisdictions.
- Community Facilities Study: The group has not yet met. Jason will keep the FAC informed as work progresses.
- ACI: No report (Rebecca Hunter had to leave the FAC meeting early).
- Projection/Capacity Subcommittee: Greg Greely said that the PCS was performing its usual spring work.
- MC/MM: Jim Meikle said that their new proposal would be announced this month.
- Thomas Jefferson Working Group: Greg noted that the group finished its work and disbanded. He commented that he was personally frustrated in the County Board’s failure to approve construction of a new elementary school on the site.
- WRAPS: Kelly King noted that plans for the new school on the Wilson site are moving along, but other related decisions are still needed.
- Abingdon Modernization and Expansion: Christian Dorsey reported that the process is moving ahead smoothly. He noted that there has been almost unanimous consensus among the members.

7. Liaison Nominations: Jason asked for a volunteer to serve as FAC liaison to Parks and Recreation; Pam Silberstein said she could do so. Jason then asked for a volunteer to serve on the BLPC for Stratford Middle School; no member immediately offered his or her name. Miles Mason volunteered to serve on the BLPC for the Wilson School. Laura Saul Edwards volunteered to serve as liaison to the Community Facilities Study.

8. Project Updates: The updates will now be reviewed on alternating months, beginning with our March meeting.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on 9 March 2015 at McKinley Elementary School.