

## 2017 – 2018 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 9th, 2018

Education Center, Room 201

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:04 PM.

### 1. Welcome

- a. Nine members were present: Matt deFerranti, Jennifer Wagener, Heather Wathington, Michael Bruce, Cristina Diaz-Torres, Robert Ramsey, Lida Anestidou, Daniel Rosman and Heather Jones, APS staff members Leslie Peterson and Tameka Lovett-Miller; and School Board Liaison Tannia Talento.

### 2. Minutes for October, November and December were approved by all parties.

### 3. Public Comment

- a. Allan Shnerson, representing ACE (Arlingtonians for Clean Environment) and the R4's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot)
  - i. Mission to improve recycling in the county
  - ii. Working with County to improve recycling at special events and schools – has sent a letter requesting conversation and support
  - iii. Has done some waste monitoring at three schools, and reviewed an independent study on school recycling done by the Solid Waste Bureau
    1. Overall poor recycling practice in schools – only 15% recycling rate
      - a. What makes up this? Highlighted was packaging in the cafeteria and lots of paper that isn't recycled.
    2. 70% of schools found not to be in compliance with county code
    3. The financial impact is that schools are paying for waster pick up rather than taking advantage of cheaper recycling
    4. Have been meeting with John Chadwick at Facilities and members of the School Board
    5. APS will make a year-end request to buy recycling bins for schools (close out funds)
    6. Some line items in upcoming budget regarding this topic:
      - a. Fund sustainable liaisons (existing staff or teacher who gets an additional stipend) in each school – responsibility for oversight – currently \$1,000 and bumping up to \$1,200 (\$50 to \$60k additional budget impact)
      - b. Want additions to job descriptions to support recycling
      - c. Would like our support of the items in the budget that support these improvements – some are in the close-out and some are in next year's budget
      - d. Schools are missing a culture of sustainability and recycling
      - e. Follow-up: The BAC requested Mr. Shnerson to send us the mentioned letter and report
- b. Josh Folb representing Arlington Education Association
  - i. Re: close out items – APS proposing using some close-out funds towards compensation items
  - ii. Make sure the benefit of using close-out funds is worth the cost in the long run

- iii. Requested BAC to have robust discussion for a Washington region index – rather than the arbitrary amounts decided in each budget year
4. Staff comments
- a. Status of the budget: Based on projections, budget gap of \$21.4 million originally
    - i. Updates from Governor's Budget (in Dec.) – caveat that new Governor may have some amendments
    - ii. \$800,000 in additional state revenue – coming in at \$3.7 million (+\$3 million)
    - iii. VRS contribution rate is going down next year – instead of a \$3 million increase it is a \$2 million decrease – overall savings of \$1.5 million (and not using \$1.5 million of reserves)
    - iv. New revised shortfall is \$13.5 million
      - 1. \$21.4 million assumed a slightly higher enrollment than actual – will give a little bit of savings – probably take us down to around \$11 million deficit
      - 2. However, there are other changes in process that could still impact the budget
      - 3. Still believe there is unlikely to be additional revenue from the County
      - 4. Don't expect the tax bill to impact FY 2019 due to the timing of how things trickle down the system
5. Rubric for evaluating Planning Factors – postpone this to a future meeting
6. Review of past tiers
- a. Class size
    - i. Public perception is that people living in Arlington want lower class size
      - 1. The FY2018 Citizen's Guide to Understanding the Budget shows 21.1 average class size for Elementary, 22.1 average size for Middle School and 19.6 average size for High School
    - ii. Capacity utilization chart that shows how many students are in different classes:  
<https://www.apsva.us/statistics/class-size-report/>
    - iii. Consider having Tara come talk to us about the details and implications of changes at the different levels
  - b. Teacher increases
  - c. Other items discussed:
    - i. Phase 3 of 3-year plan adjustments
    - ii. Phase 2 of 3-year plan for underpaid positions
    - iii. Buckets of curriculum cuts (based on low volume, low effectiveness or non-required, i.e. FLES, adult education, PreK)
    - iv. Are there fees that can be charged per student/per sport/per activity/per class to offset some costs?
    - v. Are there other outside funding sources that could be leveraged to pay for non-educational items?
  - d. Suggestion of bucketing items as Need to Do, Want to Do, Like to Do – how can we define what falls into these buckets? What are the core items?

The meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.