

## BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Education Center, Room 201

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:09 PM.

### 1. Welcome

- a. Thirteen members were present: Matt deFerranti, Jennifer Wagener, Robert Ramsey, Lida Anestidou, Daniel Rosman, Ainsley Stapleton, Lars Florio, Michael Bruce, Matt Hochstein, Celia Ciepiela-Kaelin, Michael Shea, Heather Wathington, Gianmaria Vanzulli and Heather Jones, APS staff members Leslie Peterson and Tameka Lovett-Miller; and School Board Liaison Tannia Talento.

### 2. Staff Presentation on a summary of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget

- a. Revenue neutral proposal - \$636.7 million (3.8% increase)
  - i. County transfers represents 78% of budget (down a bit from last year)
  - ii. Salaries & benefits represent 78% of the total budget
  - iii. 82% of expenses are for the school operating fund
- b. Enrollment cost per student – proposed \$19,235 – stable (slightly down) over the past 10 years, even with significant enrollment growth
- c. Expenditure Additions (added to Base budget)
  - i. \$9.7M step increase
  - ii. \$2.2M for under market positions
  - iii. \$1.9M Expansion of Arlington Tech (+200 students)
  - iv. \$5.8M for increasing enrollment
  - v. \$0.5M for school openings start-up staff (Principals, staff)
  - vi. \$2.2M for one-time start-up costs for school openings
  - vii. \$8.8M for debt service
  - viii. \$2.2M for additional psych/social workers (part of multi-year plan)
  - ix. \$0.3M bus drivers
  - x. \$0.2M technicians
  - xi. \$0.3M for safety & security
  - xii. \$0.3M for student & family staff
  - xiii. \$0.7M for Business & Ops staff
- d. \$16.5M gap – collaboration of APS staff to bridge the gap
  - i. Increased Revenue
    1. Apple buy back of used devices +\$1.0M
    2. Increased aquatics fees +\$0.06M
    3. One-time construction funds (to fund ongoing maintenance) + \$5.4M
      - a. Will need to be re-funded next year
      - b. What amount was used last year?= \$6.5M
  - ii. Reductions
    4. Changes in planning factors -\$4.8M (57.9 positions)

- 5. Postpone growth initiatives - \$1.3M (14 positions)
  - 6. Teaching & Learning changes - \$1.8M (15 positions)
  - 7. Professional development - \$0.4M
  - 8. Employee benefits - \$1.0M
  - 9. Other Reductions - \$0.8M
  - = \$10.0M (86.9 positions)
- e. Additional areas to continue to research
    - i. Ongoing look at planning factors, exemplary projects, saving energy, transportation efficiencies, device use, collaboration with the County, examine Montessori program and service models
3. Questions and Discussion from BAC Members
- a. Is it possible to consider more structural changes (in the non-teaching areas) to move some of our expenses externally (outsourced); issue some RFIs to consider savings?
    - 1. Don't think a lot of nearby counties are outsourcing much
    - 2. BAC believes there is a great opportunity to research this further
  - b. How many of the position cuts will require the layoff of a current employee?
    - i. Believe most individuals can be accommodated with vacant positions, attrition and new positions
  - c. Use of reserves – typically reserves have been used to fund 50% of certain areas (debt service, VRE, etc.)
    - ii. Have seen the overall reserve levels decline – there is no specific number to maintain but this is an important item to watch
  - d. The County is also having to make their own cuts this budget cycle
4. Public Comment on Proposed Budget (Josh Folb representing Arlington Education Association)
- a. Would like to recommend that things are done to help those individuals losing their positions to find other opportunities in the county
  - b. Recommends the BAC focus on the following areas for their budget document review
    - ii. Pages 46 to 88
    - iii. Page 317 – cost of one to one devices
    - iv. Page 318 – start-up costs
    - v. Page 264 and forward – purchased services & materials
    - vi. Page 43 – adds 20 positions for Arlington Tech versus the counselors/social workers
    - vii. Page 89
  - c. Recommends adding timers on IT carts to reduce electricity
5. Discussion of Career Center Working Group
- a. Strategic plan committee: Board appointed a committee of 27 people (community, teachers, students)
  - b. Committee working on a draft vision and mission
  - c. Will present something to the Board later this spring
  - d. Committee was provided a lot of documents to research – all available on the EngageArlington webpage

6. Discussion of the CIP

- a. A brief update on the CIP process was shared and Celia Ciepiela-Kaelin will be sending around several useful documents for the BAC to review

7. Minutes for January were approved by all parties.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.