

2017 – 2018 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Education Center, Room 201

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:05 PM.

1. Welcome

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

2. Public Comment

- a. Laura Simpson with an update from the FAC
 - i. APS is struggling with the projected growth in the school system
 - ii. The FAC is working in sub committees to develop communication strategies to “warn” the community about what is coming
 - iii. Believe more involvement is needed from the County Board in how these problems will be solved; it is not an APS problem
 - iv. Future facilities report is being drafted – will go to both County and School Boards
 - v. April 9th FAC meeting – BAC members to attend and then devote a good amount of time at the April 11th BAC meeting on facilities and the CIP
- b. Josh Folb representing Arlington Education Association
 - i. Reiterated his comments and suggestions from the previous meeting
 - ii. Suggested BAC members watch the Board work sessions, and particularly the discussion on: transit, professional development and personal appliances
 - iii. Also suggested reading the questions that have been submitted by the Board members
 - iv. Finally, he believes focus should be placed on areas with larger budget amounts that aren't in the classroom

3. BAC discussion on Budget Revenue items

- Apple buyback – all support (1 abstain)
- Aquatic fees – all support
- MC/MM –
 - We don't support using one-time funds generally, but do support it this year given the amount of the deficit and what the alternatives would be – all support except for 1 opposed

4. BAC discussion on Expense items

- Increase class size at ES – all support
- Increase class size at Middle/HS/Clerical – all support except for 1 opposed
- FLES

- General community feeling is that there isn't value at ES level for FLES – any data or studies to show effectiveness or ineffectiveness?
 - Recommend we support these cuts – all support
 - Psychologists and social workers – 7 support and 5 opposed
 - Discussion around the need for strategies to address the challenges for kids (particularly and HS level) outside of just adding people
 - ESL level 5 – all support except for 1 opposed
 - Teaching and Learning – Support all except for the items below (\$0.84) – all support except for 1 opposed
 - Exclude STEM Specialists
 - Exclude Minority Achievement Specialist (currently vacant)
 - Exclude Department chairs release period
 - Exclude Content area lead teacher stipends
 - Professional Development – 8 support and 4 opposed
 - Dual certification – consider keeping it in if it is the only way for teachers to achieve this
 - Communications – 9 support and 3 opposed
 - Recognize there will be challenges with reducing some of these items
 - Other Efficiencies – all support
 - BAC recommends that the transportation efficiencies study should come faster than 18 months – all support
5. Other Items to consider as expense reductions
- Cut FLES all together – if this were to happen, it would need to be replaced with something else
 - More discussion needed in this area
 - 1:1 devices
 - BAC supports seeing the instructional evidence
 - Study approved in the winter to look at the 1:1 program. When will this study be available and what is the scope? The BAC recommends that the study be done as soon as possible to help inform decisions. The BAC also recommends the scope of the study should include the health effects and they would like to see the RFP.
 - Greater increase in class size at the MS level from 0.75 to 1.0
6. Legislation pending signature from the Governor regarding taxation of country clubs
- a. If signed, would remove around \$700k in Revenue from the County

Meeting Concluded at 9:14pm.