

APS Staff Response

Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)

Annual Report 2017-2018

Recognitions

Staff would like to thank the members of the FAC, led by Stacy Snyder as chair and John Giambalvo as vice-chair, for their tireless work during the 2017-18 school year. John Giambalvo continued to participate enthusiastically in the annual Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) project prioritization process, as we continue to provide high performance learning environments for all our students without interruption. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of James Dankovich, John Peck, Louisa Marinaccio, Katie Rouse, Pam Silberstein, and Laura Simpson, who are departing FAC and to thank them sincerely for their time and efforts.

Work of the FAC

FAC members have provided outstanding support to the School Board and staff over the course of the year as APS continues to address its sustained enrollment growth. Many members acted as ambassadors and provided support during community meetings for the Middle School Boundary Change and Elementary School Planning Initiative processes. FAC members also contributed greatly to the charge for and work of the Career Center Working Group and to the Education Center Renovation, New Elementary School at Reed, Capital Improvement Plan, and Minor Construction/Major Maintenance processes.

Under the leadership of Stacy Snyder, FAC convened a sub-committee that spent several months evaluating APS need for additional facilities as enrollment continues to grow. The sub-committee assembled a report, titled "Future Facilities Needs." The report, which estimates the number of additional schools that would be needed if enrollment grows to 35,000, 37,500 and 40,000 students, highlights the need to find new sites for schools in this fully developed County. The report is an essential tool for ongoing collaboration between Arlington County and APS to resolve the facilities and budgetary effect of sustained enrollment growth.

FAC Recommendations

Staff sincerely appreciates the recommendations made by FAC in its Annual Report to the School Board as listed below:

- In all facility planning and decisions, fully acknowledge the pressures of enrollment growth in this fully-developed, land-constrained County by conserving as much space at each school site as possible for unknown future development
- Identify new approaches to planning and operating facilities that increase efficiencies in cost and use of space, without compromising excellence in teaching and learning
- Collaborate with the County to reduce the time it takes to complete new capital projects from five years to four
- Collaborate with the County on long-range planning to find sites for future schools and athletic fields
- Collaborate with the County to undertake a comprehensive sector plan for the Carlin Springs Road/Virginia Hospital Center/Kenmore Middle School/ Carlin Springs and Campbell neighborhood, so that APS may fully utilize the Kenmore site, the VHC site considered for school use, and long-standing traffic concerns affecting all the schools may be addressed
- Compile an inventory of existing common spaces in schools, analyze the capacity of these spaces, and determine the impact of increasing capacity through relocatable classrooms will have on them
- Assemble a group of members from the other advisory committees to study and develop new ways to address the costs and pressures of enrollment growth
- Recognize that as we plan, we should engage as one community, understanding that we are all in this together and that funding and space required for individual school projects should be balanced across the needs of all of Arlington, all schools, and the broader community.

FAC Priorities for 2018-19 School Year

Staff look- forward to collaborating with FAC on its priorities for the next school year:

- Finding ways to reduce the time it takes to build a new school from five years to four
- Identifying sites for new schools and athletic fields
- Working with JFAC to initiate a comprehensive sector plan for the Carlin Springs Road/Virginia Hospital Center/Kenmore/Carlin Springs/Campbell neighborhood
- Making an inventory of and analyze common spaces in schools
- Finding new, more efficient, less costly ways to address transportation, parking, and space in schools
- Collaborating with other advisory councils and committees to develop innovative solutions to APS' growing enrollment and budget challenges
- Collaborating with SEPTA and ASEAC to assess special facility requirements