

**2018 – 2019 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, September 25, 2018**  
**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

The meeting started at 7:00

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Eleven members were present: Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin (Chair), Bob Ramsey (Co-Chair), Melanie Bowen, Heather Jones, Cristina Diaz-Torres, Lida Anestidou, David Rosenblatt, Juan Gordon, Daniel Rosman, Jenn Wagener (by phone), and Gianmaria Vanzulli; APS staff members Leslie Peterson and Tameka Lovett Miller.
2. Review and Approval of Minutes
  - a. No minutes to approve
3. Public Comment
  - a. Josh Folb, representing the Arlington Education Association. Shared base salary comparison with other districts for 2014-15 school year compared with 2018-19 school year, not including benefits.
  - b. Leslie Peterson informed the group that Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) provides an [annual report](#) comparing compensation packages among local districts. Document available on [apsva.us](http://apsva.us)
4. Liaison Reports
  - a. Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI) (Kevin Dezfulian). Presented ACI purpose and subcommittees
  - b. Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Projects (FAC) (Laura Saul Edwards). Presented FAC role and purpose. Key focus areas this year include the Career Center and Reed Elementary.
  - c. Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC) (Josh Folb). Presented purpose of ACTC and priorities including issue of longer walk to bus stops for shorter routes, more use of public transit
  - d. Education Center Building Committee (ECBC) (Bob Ramsey) – four meetings planned before a proposal reviewed by the School Board in January (schematic design), detailed design in Spring 2019, construction design in September 2019. Maximum investment of \$37M.
  - e. BAC will designate a liaison to the Council of PTAs (CCPTA)
5. Staff Report, Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services, Tameka Lovett-Miller, Director Finance and Management
  - a. Forecast for next year completed. Gap at this point last year was \$26M; based on current projections for next year, looking at gap of \$43M. Five schools or programs coming on line next year. Need out of the box thinking and hard choices. County manager did a presentation to the county board today. County itself is projecting a gap of between \$20-35M. Even if, as the county manager indicates he will use a variety of approaches, including tax and fee increases, that will not be enough.
  - b. Looking at a lot of ideas about how to approach this budget differently.

- c. The information item for the budget includes a needs-based budget.
- d. Revenue growth is very low – about 1.5%.
- e. \$24-25M total estimated for the opening of the new schools/programs.
- f. Using reserves for one-time costs such as the openings of the schools. Depleting reserves and not refilling reserves. Don't have enough money in one-time funds to cover all of the forecast one-time expenses. Compensation reserve is not enough to cover half of the compensation increase, for example.
- g. Forecast gap is after including an expansion of class sizes.
- h. APS has not yet looked at corporate partnerships to help defray the costs of school and program start-ups, but it is a goal under the new strategic plan
- i. Budget Calendar has been finalized. Superintendent's proposed budget will be presented to the board on February 28, 2019, there will be 6-7 budget working sessions.

6. Old Business

- a. **FY2019-2020 post mortem.** Daniel Rosman presented a review of BAC recommendations last year

7. New Business

- a. Proposed changes to the BAC policy (Bob Ramsey)
  - i. Draft includes change of the leadership terms from two years to one year and makes clearer the expectation that the Vice Chair would be expected to succeed the chair and that the chair would remain as chair emeritus the following year.
  - ii. Bob will circulate draft policy change by email and members can respond with suggestions over email, expect to vote at next meeting.
- b. Proposed Plan for BAC Meetings. Initially organized around the key proposed cuts from last year, asking for members to take responsibility for preparing on particular subjects. Leslie indicated most proposed cuts were included in the final budget last year (which has not yet been published) and that the planning factors are already incorporated into the new projections. Requested feedback on priorities that will prepare the council for upcoming decisions on budgets cuts.
- c. *Ad hoc* presentation on School Bond Initiative (Lida Anestidou and Laura Saul Edwards)

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.