

Meeting with Advisory Council Leadership and Budget Work Session #4
March 15, 2016

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 6:37 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstien, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School & Community Relations
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Management Services
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services
Leslie Peterson, Budget Director
Tomeka Miller-Love, Budget Analyst

Advisory Council Leadership

Ted Black, Co-Chair, Advisory Council on Instruction
Matt de Ferranti, Vice Chair, Budget Advisory Council
Louisa Marinaccio, Co-Chair, Advisory Council on Instruction
Michael Shea, Chair, Budget Advisory Council

Meeting with Advisory Council Leadership

Budget Advisory Council

Mr. Shea began his conversation with the Board by thanking Ms. Van Doren for being the liaison to the Budget Advisory Council. He also thanked Dr. Murphy and the Executive Leadership Team for their hard work and getting APS through difficult budget years. Mr. Shea shared his disappointment in not having the compensation study ready in time for the advisory council to review in preparation for this year's budget recommendations. On behalf of the Budget Advisory Council, Mr. Shea shared his support for employee compensation and an increase in school psychologist positions. Mr. de Ferranti suggested researching compensation at other jurisdictions

where salary is based on challenges of the school, such as serving a large population of free and reduced lunch students. Mr. Shea let the Board know the Budget Advisory Council will collaborate with the Advisory Council on Instruction next year to support various recommendations.

Advisory Council of School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)

Ms. Kelly King, Chair and Mr. Miles Mason, Vice Chair, of the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs were unable to attend, however they sent an email statement read by Mr. Lander. In summary, the FAC supported the Capital Improvement Plan, the addition of new proposed positions and support revising planning factors to support student growth. Mr. Goldstein requested clarification on planning factor changes. Ms. McLaughlin explained that planning factors change based on population increase or decrease, and are approved by the Board on July 1. However, she also noted that some employee positions are not affected by one-to-one student growth but based on total population.

Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI)

Mr. Black thanked the Board for hosting a work session with advisory leaders. He let the Board know his support for a position that would better work with advisory councils, such as a project leader, in order to have better collaboration between advisory leaders and staff. He also said the ACI was supportive of proposed positions as recommended on the priority list shared with Board members at the March 7 ACI work session.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked committee chairs for their recommendations and for their involvement in the budget process.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:46 PM

Budget Work Session #4

Dr. Murphy briefly outlined the agenda and topics for discussion: Spring enrollment changes; state revenue update; County revenue update, and School Board proposed changes to Supt's proposed budget.

Spring Enrollment

Ms. Peterson shared with the Board the Spring update of the FY 2017 Enrollment Projections. She explained some of the expenses incurred with the increase of student enrollment. Factors such as the addition of Virginia Initiative Preschool classes and an increase in English Language Learners change staffing and expenses throughout the school system. Dr. Violand-Sánchez requested a detailed summary of staff allocation, specifically at Oakridge. Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Lander noted that the Oakridge population sees a great deal of student turnover because much of its community is military. Mr. Lander requested information on enrollment and capacity at H-B Woodlawn, and Ms. Van Doren requested a follow up on the waiting list of H-B Woodlawn.

State & County Revenue Update

Ms. Peterson let the Board know that a full update was not yet available, as the Department of Education had not released information. Ms. Van Doren requested for staff to follow up with state regarding employee increase funding.

Dr. Murphy confirmed that the County Board was also in the process of adopting their budget and that the County manager was working with the County Board for budget direction.

School Board Proposed Changes to Superintendent's Proposed Budget

Ms. Peterson explained four different proposed scenarios to the Board. Each scenario was presented identified recommendations and the impact of a budget gap. Dr. Murphy articulated to the Board that each scenario was carefully put together based on the Board's priorities, importance of compensation to employees, and possible changes in revenue.

The Board discussed employee compensation, specifically increasing hourly rate and providing pay increase to the lowest paid scales. Mr. Landers opined that putting together compensation package without a complete compensation study was difficult because the discussion lacked proper direction and informative data. In addition, the Board discussed at length the importance of presenting a well balanced budget to the County Board and carefully requesting additional funding based on a large anticipated deficit.

Ms. Van Doren requested information on allocation of stipends for special interest clubs in order to give students an equitable school experience. Mr. Landers questioned the rolling out process of ATSS and associated positions. Dr. Murphy explained the ATSS budget is based on a three-year plan roll out and that the addition of new positions support different aspects of the program, a concept Ms. Van Doren strongly supports. Dr. Kanninen proposed borrowing MCM to fund some the priorities of the proposed budget. In conclusion, each Board member expressed their support for a budget comprised of employee compensation, careful consideration of new positions, mindful additional funding to the County Board and increasing resources for all students.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board