

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS
MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2019 – 7:00 pm

Syphax – Room 254

In attendance: Rosa Cheney, Charles “Chip” Goyette, Sally Hoekstra, Scott Milam, Adam Rasmussen, Alex Seleznyov, Gladis Bourdouane, John Chadwick, Jeff Chambers, Michael DePalma, Michael Freda, John Giambalvo, Reid Goldstein, Chandi Krohl, Steven Leutner, Greg Lloyd, Miles Mason, Colleen Pickford, Stacy Snyder & Lisa Stengle

1. Minutes for the prior meeting will be considered at the next meeting.
2. The following new members were introduced:
 - a. Charles “Chip” Goyette, Sally Hoekstra, Scott Milam, Adam Rasmussen, and Alex Seleznyov.
3. Rules of conduct were discussed, including freedom of information act. Meetings of more than two members of the FAC constitute an official meeting.
4. Liaison positions discussed. Explanation of liaison role and responsibilities on other committees explained. These roles are mainly nonvoting roles, serving on other committees. Volunteers for the liaison positions may not have to commit to a whole year, and two people can split a role.
 - a. Greg Lloyd (liaison to the FAC from the Sustainability Advisory Committee) . The Sustainability Advisory Committee focuses on student learning and involvement in sustainable initiatives.
 - b. Stacy Snyder is a voting member of FAC and JFAC.
 - c. John Giambalvo will be liaison to the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) committee. MC/MM budget includes maintenance of existing systems and does not include small expansions or renovations.
 - d. Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC). Looks at transportation challenges in the County, such as parent pickup and drop off, scooters, busses, and hub stop for Montessori and HB Woodlawn. Charles Goyette and Adam Rasmussen agreed to share this role.
 - e. County Council of Parent-Teacher Associates (CCPTA). Coleen Pickford and Chandi Krohl will share the role.
 - f. Budget Advisory Council. Scott Milam agreed to share the role. Another volunteer is needed to share this role when he is out of town.
 - g. School Health Advisory Board (SHAB). Need a volunteer. John Giambalvo to confirm with Heather that she will be liaison to SHAB, since she was not present.
 - h. Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) – Sally Hoekstra will fill this role.
 - i. Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA). Need a volunteer.
 - j. Arlington Aquatics Committee. Need a volunteer.

Arlington Partnership for Children Youth and Families. They are a joint committee between County and Public Schools. They plan to have a meeting so that advisory committees can explain the roles of each committee. Typically, they meet on the last Wednesday of each month.

Other subcommittees may be formed from time to time. Likely there will be a subcommittee for Capital Improvement Projects starting in spring.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Process discussed. CIP is for 10 years. Draft Timeline was distributed. Joint meeting between FAC and JFAC to determine upcoming sites to be pursued/considered. Phase 3 is design studies and cost estimates to determine finances by end of March to determine bonding capacity. Phase 6 recommends a CIP that culminates in CIP Action Meeting on June 25.

Reid Goldstein briefly discussed the search process for a new superintendent.

School Board is changing Advisory Policy so that there is a single Advisory Policy that covers all committees, and then separate subcommittee policies will be based upon that. Reid indicated that each Policy must be reviewed (and updated as necessary) every 5 years. Policy review subcommittee with Superintendents staff is bringing a number of policies up for review and approval at each School Board meeting. Advisory Policies are on hand at each meeting in case someone needs to look at them.

5. Weekly Enrollment Update -- Projections updated in fall and spring. Projections are important because budget is impacted by number of students and budget is dispensed based on locations and number of students. Draft Weekly Enrollment distributed (dated Sep 5, 2019) showing fewer students than projections indicated. The Pre-K numbers were particularly off – Lisa Stengle indicated this is partly because the process for registering for lottery vs registering for school (once selected from lottery) were not clear and some students thought they were part of school but had not actually registered officially. Those will be corrected. Montessori fee structure is expensive for middle level, so not all pre-K students enrolled. Kindergarten enrollment projections was based on Virginia birth rates (5 years ago) and also birth rates from parents of child-bearing ages and residential units that the County indicated would come online (based on site plan approvals, not construction permit approvals), but had not come online within the timeline initially indicated. Lisa Stengle indicated they are looking at using new metrics to determine Kindergarten enrollment projections. Students that live closer to option school tend to go to the option school (compared to those that have to travel across the County).

Question regarding lower enrollment and schools with relocatables – are students being moved back into the main building instead of having students be in relocatables? Lisa Stengle indicated that is a school-by-school decision based on principal choice/plan.

Question regarding whether the high projections for Pre-K and K and whether that will impact the needs for school growth for middle schools and high schools in CIP. Lisa Stengle indicated it might allow for more breathing room, but that they still expect growth and do not want to swing projections wildly back and forth.

6. Capital Projects Update – Jeff updated on the various projects. Ed Center will be additional W-L seats with no program currently assigned. It could be converted in future to Elementary (with some addition of cafeteria/multi-purpose/gym) or Middle School seats or used for swing space.

Wilson School now called “The Heights” and contains H-B Woodlawn and Eunice Kennedy Shriver programs.

7. Relocatable Assignment -- County made new rules regarding placement of relocatables regarding distance from parks, whether they are on hardscape (blacktop) or softscape. Less relocatables being used this year compared to last year. Removing single, isolated relocatables where possible due to security preferences.

Abingdon and Science Focus have a high enrollment and may need relocatables. For next year, Abingdon would consider removing the Pre-K program to Oakridge to address enrollment numbers/needs, but this cannot be done during a school year. The alternatives for addressing enrollment include changing school boundaries (which will not occur) and adding relocatables.

Question regarding how pre-K seats are determined. Lisa Stengle indicated it is a fixed number and tied directly to predetermined budget.

8. Gladis Bourdouane indicated that review and feedback of the Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP) by FAC is extremely important. Gladis and Lisa reported and explained AFSAP Summary of Recent Changes, Additions, and APS Inventory of Long-Term Facilities Needs Table. Draft rules were mapped out last year regarding weighing decisions for buying adjacent properties to schools - each school was reviewed to see what they needed in terms of access or other land acquisition needs, as it relates to deciding what kinds of properties (not specific properties) would be desirable next to those schools if adjacent land was ever for sale. Budgets of AFSAP or CIP do not include land acquisition.

APS is reviewing old studies with old pricing and expansion capacity (in either # of classrooms or # of seats) to see whether they can see what of that information might still be applied to future enrollment/growth/expansion.

9. County Collaboration -- Stacy Snyder described the process of JFAC to develop a joint plan between County planning process (for parks, libraries, public services, etc.) with APS planning process. As the County density increases, APS and the County will need to share sites. The JFAC will have envisioning sessions to figure out the future goals. So far, the County and the APS do not speak precisely the same language in terms of planning. APS has been working to develop more concrete long-term plans so that they can work with County to make joint planning decisions.