

2019 – 2020 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 20, 2020

Online via MSTeams

The meeting started at 7:07 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Eleven Members were present: Bob Ramsey (Chair), Melanie Bowen (Vice-Chair), Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, Erik Sullivan, Sheila Leonard, Katherine Christensen, Lida Anestidou, Heather Jones, Chuck Rush, Cristina Diaz-Torres and Jennifer Wagener
 - b. APS staff member Leslie Peterson
 - c. School Board Liaison Monique O'Grady
2. Public Comment – none, although Arlington Education Association representative Josh Folb attended
3. Housekeeping Matters
 - a. BAC Membership: there will be three or more open spots on the BAC for next year
 - b. BAC Leadership:
 - i. We intend to nominate Vice Chair Melanie Bowen to serve as Chair next year in accordance with our new leadership plan.
 - ii. We are seeking expressions of Member's interest in the Vice Chair role, with anticipation that the person would advance to the Chair role in the following year. Send an email to Bob and Melanie.
 - c. Policy Review: Seeking BAC Member to take responsibility for reviewing new policies to determine the following: no BAC concern; call attention to BAC Membership, organize BAC corporate response and write BAC memo because it warrants the greater weight from the BAC memo. Eric Sullivan volunteered for this role.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February minutes approved by a majority of Members (10 approvals and 1 abstain)
 - b. March minutes approved by a majority of Members (10 approvals and 1 abstain)
5. Reports
 - a. Monique provided a School Board update.
 - i. New Superintendent selected and will officially start June 1. Dr. Francisco Durán comes from Fairfax County. He will have virtual town hall meetings with the community scheduled in June
 - ii. Budget process will be different next school year due to anticipated decline in revenue from the county. There will be ongoing coordination and communication on this
 - iii. School Board meeting tomorrow has a lengthy agenda
 1. Ending school year a week early
 2. Career Center
 3. Capital Improvement Plan
 4. Individual school building funding

- 5. Timeline for elementary boundary changes
 - iv. A handful of policy updates are in process
 - b. Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL)
 - i. Some sub committees working on ideas for remote learning in the fall
 - c. Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices
 - i. No update
 - d. CCPTA
 - i. No update
- 6. Leslie provided an FY2021 Budget Update
 - a. It was a quick process (about two weeks) to abandon the original budget and prepare a revised budget; in light of the pandemic
 - b. There will be some ongoing changes as lower revenue numbers from the County materialize
 - i. If APS revenue does not materialize as per the revised budget, the reserve will be used first, followed by other tough choices (hiring freeze, spending parameters)
 - ii. Originally there was a reserve, but this has been reduced
 - c. The community will definitely have concerns over some of the biggest items (class size, FLES, compensation) but overall, there has been support given this unprecedented time
 - d. APS believes they will get around \$1.7 million from the CARES Act
 - e. Final budget document is usually published in the August timeframe
- 7. Leslie also provided a Capital Improvement Plan Status
 - a. This topic will be covered in the School Board meeting tomorrow, as well as in some upcoming work sessions
 - b. There have been significant updates to the CIP from the last version posted publicly (on the website)
 - c. The CIP is typically a 10-year plan that is based off revenue projections, but based on uncertainty in revenues, and the County moving their CIP to a short-term basis, APS is doing the same
 - d. The updated Career Center plans outline some large changes
 - i. Concept Design document provides an overview
 - ii. Current plans cost around \$250M compared to an original budget of \$180M
- 8. Bob discussed the End of Year Report
 - a. This is meant to be a review of the BAC's work over the past year and making suggestions for going forward
 - b. BAC members are requested to send their suggestions via email to Bob by Saturday, June 6th
 - c. Some potential items:
 - i. Budget document and process (such as providing more in Spanish)
 - ii. Reserves
 - iii. Where additional cuts would come from if revenue does not materialize
 - iv. Equity framework/lens

The meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.