2020 – 2021 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 9, 2020

Online via MS Teams

The meeting started at 7:01 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
    a. Thirteen members were present: Melanie Bowen (Chair), Chuck Rush (Vice-Chair), Erik Sullivan, Katherine Christensen, Dedra Curteman, Juan Gordon, Wei Chien, Bob Ramsey, Lisa Blackwell, Nellie Carr, Julie Davis, Sean Miller, and Jennifer Wagener
        i. Valerie Smith joined as an observer (and future member)
    b. APS staff member Leslie Peterson
    c. School Board Liaison Monique O'Grady

2. Approval of Minutes
    a. The June minutes were approved by all members attending (from last year's Council)

3. Housekeeping Matters
    a. March meeting dates
        i. BAC will hold March 3, 10 and 17 as potential meeting dates so we can be flexible around the timing of the budget release and possibly needing additional time to work through the draft budget
        ii. Unclear if or how quickly hard/paper copies of the budget will be available to BAC members
            1. Online budget will be available

4. Public Comment – Josh Folb, AEA
    a. Concerned about maintaining staff throughout the pandemic and the after times
        i. How to balance short term decisions with long term implications?
    b. Would like the BAC to continue to push for the compensation study, which is now a year behind

5. Liaison Appointments
    a. Advisory Council on Instruction (ACTL) – Dedra has volunteered but also requesting another BAC member to consider this role
    b. Joint Facilities Advisory Council (JFAC) – Dedra has volunteered
    c. Transportation – Juan has volunteered
    d. CCPTA – Bob has volunteered

6. Update from Monique O'Grady
    a. Full time distance school started September 8
    b. On October 1, the situation will be re-evaluated; to start hybrid learning the second quarter (as the soonest date)
        i. Criteria for returning
            1. COVID rates in Arlington and surrounding areas
            2. Hospitalization rates
            3. Matching staffing with families who selected hybrid learning
            4. Cleaning/disinfecting supplies and process

5. Busing and food services
6. PPE
7. Isolation process and facilities
8. Testing availability within County sources

c. Families experienced technical issues
    i. Caused by a firewall issue – it needed to be opened up further to allow more traffic
    ii. As of today, 25,000+ active devices on the network
    iii. Still outstanding issues with about 1,000 HS devices
d. Large communication focus leading up to the start of school and continuing across multiple channels
e. Internet support – working to ensure families and students have access to stable Internet via Comcast and Mi-fi
f. Able to continue to hand out food via the continuation of the USDA program
    i. Handed 450,000+ meals with the program to-date
    ii. Expanding locations from 9 sites to 21 sites for current school year, as well as some delivery locations
g. School Board Action Plan for 2020/21 – will be voting on this September 24th
    i. Focus on Excellent Education regardless of delivery model, while focusing on Equity
    ii. Student Success & Well-Being
        1. Connectivity
        2. Safety procedures around in person learning
        3. Every student connected to a trusted adult
    iii. Operational Planning
        1. Adopting policies around Equity, Facilities and Discipline
        2. Relationship with School Resource Officers
        3. Budget
        4. 4 to 6-year CIP
        5. PreK-12 Instructional Program Pathways
        6. New elementary school boundaries (for 2021-22)
    iv. Budget
        1. Stay on track for current budget
            a. Content covered on budget in every school board update
                i. Expecting $5 million shortfall in current budget cycle due to COVID (current estimate)
            b. Compensation study ordered; expected in December
        2. Needs based budget for 2022
            a. October – budget direction
                i. Beginning draft includes input from BAC
            b. Dec 8 – joint budget session with County (tentative)
            c. Feb. 28 – Superintendent presentation of proposed budget
    v. CIP
        1. Adopted plan only for one year
        2. Still need 1,000 seats by 2024-25
        3. 10-year projections released in December

7. FY 2021 Budget update
    a. Assumes virtual instruction through the first quarter only

b. Current financial projections (which change frequently)
    i. Revenue – total current impact of ($0.63) million
        1. Still waiting on update from the County Revenue
            a. Expect this to be negative but did get $7.0 million in CARES funding from the County
            b. Should hear in October
        2. $3.6 million in decreased State sales tax; still waiting on other State Revenue
        3. $5.2 million decrease in Local Revenue fees (Extended Day, Aquatics, Building Use, etc.) – only projected through the first quarter
    ii. Costs – total current impact of +$11.52 million
        1. +$6 million in healthy and safety
        2. +$3 million in technology needs
        3. +$2 million in instructional needs
        4. +$1 million in mental health, food service staff (through the first quarter) and communication translations
    iii. Savings – total current impact of ($7.07) million
        1. Salaries/Benefits, Utilities & Fuel, Capital Outlay (furniture and equipment in schools), staffing contingency (based on enrollment) and General contingency
    iv. Net Shortfall of $5.08 million overall
        1. Current estimate – will change
        2. High likelihood of cuts needed as all the details and reality play out

8. Draft fall agenda
    a. BAC members encouraged to reach out to Melanie with any thoughts and feedback

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.