

2020 – 2021 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 18, 2020

Online via MS Teams

The meeting started at 7:03 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Thirteen members were present: Melanie Bowen (Chair), Chuck Rush (Vice-Chair), Katherine Christensen, Juan Gordon, Bob Ramsey, Erik Sullivan, Julie Davis, Sean Miller, Cristina Diaz-Torres, Valerie Smith, Nellie Carr, Lisa Blackwell, and Jennifer Wagener
 - b. APS staff member Leslie Peterson
 - c. School Board Liaison Monique O'Grady
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The October minutes were approved by all members
3. Public Comment – Josh Folb, AEA
 - a. AEA wants to focus the BAC's attention on fractional allocations of staff that each School Principal has discretion over
 - i. Principals can choose to not hire fractional positions and instead combine them together to use for another position (or other variations)
 - b. Group discussion that if these fractional staff are not used as assumed, they should be given back to the budget
4. Update on FY22 Budget Guidance – Monique O'Grady
 - a. The 3 overarching goals in the document are the most important items: excellent education, quality hybrid and in-person, focus on equity
 - b. Budget direction passed 3-2
 - i. Main item that caused diversion was waiving the salary policy - majority of the Board felt that the budget deficit situation necessitated flexibility
5. Joint Work Session with Arlington County – Monique O'Grady
 - a. Received an update of where the County budget is – county continues to have budget challenges but hopes to be able to use reserves
 - b. Discussed importance and use of CARES funding
 - c. Reminded County about APS concern for upcoming large budget deficits, including potentially a second year of not being able to fund staff salary increases
 - d. Collaboration will be ongoing
6. Update on Budget – Leslie Peterson
 - a. FY 21 Budget
 - i. Projected Revenue shortfalls of \$15 to \$23 million
 - ii. Projected additional Cost Expenditures of \$11 million
 - iii. Estimated Cost Savings of \$9 million
 1. Net Shortfall is \$18 to \$25 million
 - iv. Preliminary look at FY20 Closeout of approximately \$26 million
 1. Recommending using up to \$15 million towards FY 21
 - a. Need to reserve as much as possible for FY22
 2. Leaves a shortfall of \$3 to \$10 million

- b. FY22 Fiscal Outlook
 - i. Current estimate of a \$61 to \$69 million deficit
 - 1. Can be reduced to \$37 to \$44 million deficit if all Reserves are used

- 7. Review of BAC Ideas to close Budget Gap – Melanie Bowen
 - a. BAC reviewed the compiled list of all suggested ideas, as individually submitted by BAC members
 - b. Discussion occurred on whether the list should be voted on by BAC members, or presented as a collation of ideas
 - i. In the interest of time, the list will be presented as a collation of ideas
 - ii. Individual BAC members do not agree with specific items on the list and therefore a disclaimer will be added to the document

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.