

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2020 – 6:30 PM
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: John Chadwick, Jeff Chambers, Kristin Haldeman, Michael DePalma, Lisa Stengle, Sarah Johnson, Mike Freda, Heather Carkuff Joson, Rosa Cheney, Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, John Giambalvo, David Goodman, Charles “Chip” Goyette, Cynthia Hilton, Sally Hoekstra, Steve Leutner, Colleen Pickford, Adam Rasmussen, Shellie Ramirez, Stacy Snyder, Greg Lloyd, Dedra Curteman, Gabriela Uro, & Marjorie Green.

1. Minutes for September 14, 2020 were approved.
2. Chair and Liaison Discussions: John Giambalvo noted that Shellie Ramirez was soon leaving FAC due to a family move and thanked her for her service to FAC.

There was an update on the Reed project regarding schedule and costs. Funds have been transferred between projects due to the timing of bond sales. Additional water storage will be placed under the Reed fields – therefore, the school construction is on-schedule, but the fields will not be ready by school opening.

Dedra Curteman provided an update on the budget deficits facing APS – \$29 to \$36 million this year and \$67 to \$74 million next year.

3. Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugee Concerns: Marjorie Green and Gabriela Uro addressed the FAC:

The communities they represent (30% of the APS population) are being disproportionately impacted by COVID. Main issues/concerns are transportation, child-care, and proximity to schools. Engagement with the communities can be difficult but it can be successful when efforts are made.

A main theme was how school buildings are a critical center of support and connectivity, a community center for students, parents, and neighbors. The spaces should be designed accordingly – flexibility is key, along with items like Wi-Fi.

Ideas relating to facilities were raised such as “language labs”, technology for video conferencing, help with learning a new language and improved communication at the buildings themselves. The presenters raised some key points that may not be considered by those outside these communities – e.g. Wakefield has over 1,000 students who speak a language other than English, and high school students in these communities are often breadwinners. How does that impact their needs (students and families) and thus impact the potential design and operation of APS facilities?

4. Elementary School Boundary Process: Discussion focused on capacity concerns; grandfathering, transfers; transportation equity and reducing the need for buses; projections and housing developments; program moves and relocations (especially moving Key); the IPP (future processes and how we use schools). Final action is anticipated December 3.
5. Elementary School Capacity: Discussion revolved around whether 4 rooms per school should be reserved for music/art or more rooms reserved at larger schools. Drew was discussed as was Virtual VA.
6. County Use Permit TDM Conditions Revisions: Kristen Haldeman discussed TDM changes noting that every school is different, but they are trying to standardize the benefit and tie it to the budget. Data is being used in an attempt to reduce congestion.
7. Staff Street Parking: John Chadwick and Kristen Haldeman discussed the Residential Parking Plan (RPP) mainly relating to Wakefield High School – the desire to add relocatables there but that there are few options due to space issues. How much parking can be acceptable around schools? There is a desire to maximize the use of public resources. Questions and examples were raised: do you allow staff and families to park in the neighborhood? Waivers for contractors; permits? Neighborhoods have different population densities. It is a County process to change the plan; we cannot just build our way out of this issue.
8. Building Ventilation Assessment and Recommendations: John Chadwick discussed the capacity for rooms (considering normal and reduced COVID capacity) with Elementary Schools the immediate priority. Chip Goyette asked about ventilation and whether the focus is on code or a new COVID standard.
9. Facilities Optimization Study: The Study was discussed – kitchens vs. cafeterias; green and outdoor space. John Chadwick noted that APS does not have the space to match what suburban and rural school divisions can provide. Steve Leutner stated that this is a much-improved document and encouraged the FAC to consider endorsing the study. It will be considered in a future meeting.
10. September 30, 2020 Official Enrollment: Enrollment is down by about 1,000 students below last year and down 2,000 students from what had been projected. The reduction is concentrated at the Elementary School level.