

2020 – 2021 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 10, 2021

Online via MS Teams

The meeting started at 7:02 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Fourteen members were present: Melanie Bowen (Chair), Chuck Rush (Vice-Chair), Katherine Christensen, Juan Gordon, Bob Ramsey, Erik Sullivan, Julie Davis, Valerie Smith, Nellie Carr, Dedra Curteman, Lisa Blackwell, Michael Lyons, Sal Tajuddin and Jennifer Wagener
 - b. APS staff member Leslie Peterson
 - c. School Board Liaison Monique O'Grady
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The February minutes were approved by all members.
 - b. The March 3rd minutes were approved by all members.
3. Public Comment – Josh Folb, AEA
 - a. Commented on previous night's compensation work session
 - b. COLA and Step increases were discussed
 - i. Hourly APS employees not covered under a Step
 - c. AEA would like to see all employees on a Step
4. Remarks on the proposed budget and process – Monique O'Grady
 - a. Congress passed the stimulus package, and it is estimates that APS could receive around \$20 million
 - b. Key employee comments on the budget
 - i. Concern if there is no COLA and Step
 - ii. If the one-time bonus option is all that is achievable, there is a preference for \$1,000 rather than \$500
 - iii. Would like to see a compensation adjustment for accreditation
5. Budget updates – Leslie Peterson
 - a. American Rescue plan will have some requirements – waiting for details
 - i. Such as 20% of funds must be used for learning loss
 - b. Midyear report to be presented in next board meeting
 - i. Projecting \$13 million of close-out (June 30th)
 - ii. These will replenish reserves proposed to be used for the FY 22 budget
6. Discussion of committee input on proposed budget – Melanie Bowen
 - a. The BAC discussed various areas of the committee's collective suggestions on the budget overall, Revenue and Expense areas
 - b. Key discussion topics:
 - i. Balance between needed short-term cuts and long-term budget shortfalls
 - ii. Maximizing fee opportunities without creating over burden to families
 - iii. Ensuring previous year's BAC recommendations are incorporated

- iv. Option schools
- v. Importance of summer school
- vi. Cannot rely on PTA to fund critical gaps
- vii. Equity audit is important before too much ramp up in spending
- viii. Enrollment forecasts
- ix. Class sizes
- x. In-house legal team
- c. BAC encourages cuts that should happen regardless of funding
- d. Additional comments to be provided to Melanie by Saturday

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.