

## 2020-21 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

1. Thirteen members were present: Melanie Bowen (Chair), Chuck Rush (Vice-Chair), Katherine Christensen, Juan Gordon, Bob Ramsey, Erik Sullivan, Julie Davis, Sean Miller, Valerie Smith, Nellie Carr, Michael Lyons, Sal Tajuddin, and Jennifer Wagener
  - a. APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson, APS Board Chair Monique O'Grady
2. The April minutes were approved by all members.
3. Public comment.
  - a. Josh Folb, AEA, welcomed the approved compensation package.
  - b. BAC members discussed continuing the virtual format for the 2021-2022 schedule. Members were to provide input to the chair on their opinion for next year.
  - c. BAC noted the lack of 100% response for the school survey on returnees and expressed a desire for a more robust response to get better data for budgetary decision-making.
4. Comments on School Board's Adopted Budget – Monique O'Grady
  - a. The school board asked the Superintendent to scrub numbers on returnees. Better information would help plan staffing for next year and also realize savings from that. From the current decision, this translated to about 3 million in savings but \$500,000 was placed into a contingency fund in the event more children currently attending private schools returned to APS.
  - b. We need to find better ways moving forward to afford compensation to reward hard work but also remain competitive relative to our neighboring districts
5. Overview of Final Budget – Leslie Peterson
  - a. Numerous adjustments led to the current adopted budget of \$700.8 million. As adopted, there is about an \$11 million deficit remaining. It is expected that closeout funds and reserves will close the deficit.
  - b. The budget implements a compensation increase of a 2% cost-of-living adjustment, plus step increases. This led to an overall compensation increase of about \$14 million.
6. Overview of CIP – Leslie Peterson
  - a. Assistant Superintendent Peterson provided an overview of planned and ongoing capital projects. She noted that the Career Center may be complete sooner than expected with a Fall 2025 desired goal.
  - b. She also discussed debt capacity and clearance and the possibility of another bond referendum this fall.
7. Discussion of BAC Year End Report Draft – Melanie Bowen
  - a. BAC Chair Bowen requested a final input and review of the BAC's final report. Items discussed included: use of \$40 million in one-time funds that are not available next year, and bell time adjustments for school starts.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.