

## 2021-22 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:04pm.

1. Eleven members were present: Chuck Rush (Chair), Erik Sullivan (Vice-Chair) Melanie Bowen (Past-Chair), Juan Gordon, Julie Davis, Nellie Carr, Michael Lyons, Sal Tajuddin, Andy Greenwood, Bridget Obikoya, and Jennifer Wagener.
  - APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson, APS Board Chair Monique O'Grady
2. The June minutes were approved.
3. Public comment (from Josh Folb, representing the AEA, via email)
  - AEA supports the employee vaccine mandate
  - Requests that the annual cost of living adjustment for teachers/staff be tied to the social security annual increase
    - While this has been in the 1-2% range in the past, it is reported to be around 6% this year
4. Verbal Budget Update – Leslie Peterson
  - Work on the budget is minimal over the summer
  - Focused with schools to make sure staffing needs are being met
    - There are many vacancies, particularly in special education
  - Started on school board budget direction
    - Used \$40 million in one-time funds last year to balance the budget so that creates a substantial hole to start the FY23 budget
    - Hope to have the first estimate from the county on Revenue in mid to late October
5. School Board Update – Monique O'Grady
  - BAC is a critical part of the budget process
  - As mentioned, starting the budget year with a large deficit – creative solutions and tough choices will be needed
  - School board budget direction is coming soon – collective bargaining is something in progress
6. Committee Liaisons – Chuck Rush
  - Important to have BAC members serve as liaisons to other key committees – please let Chuck know via email if you are interested (or if you are already serving on any)
    - FAC
    - JFAC
    - CPTA
    - ACTL

7. Review 2021 BAC Schedule – Chuck Rush
  - BAC meeting usually the second Wed of the month; some deviations from that are needed this year
  - 3 meetings held for March in the event we need them (to get through the budget)
  - Currently we have approval for virtual meetings on a temporary basis; this may change in the future
  
8. Policy Review – Erik Sullivan
  - Policies are reviewed on a published schedule at Board meetings
  - Policy review cycle allows for public comments at the beginning and during policy drafts
    - Committees also have the opportunity to provide feedback
  - Some of the policies are relevant to BAC – some coming this winter
  
9. Discussion on 2021 Way Ahead and Council Work – Chuck Rush
  - Between now and Feb – BAC members need to get as smart as possible on the budget areas and direction, with focus on areas that are changing, or we expect to be an important part of the budget
    - Members should understand where Revenue comes from and APS’ relationship with Arlington County

New members should read the Executive Summary of previous year’s budget

  - BAC discussion on topics of interest:
    - Compensation study – December 7<sup>th</sup> board work session on the compensation study
    - Update on equity initiatives and impact to the budget
      - Alternative funding model study from Reid Goldstein
    - Enrollment forecasts; particularly considering how the pandemic has continued to impact this
    - Lessons learned from the past year (mentioned in BAC end of year report)
    - Status of recommendations from previous years – where do they go?
    - Virtual learning program – how have the investments played out and does this need to be a focus in the future? Can we leverage any of the IT investment?
    - CIP update
    - Initial thoughts/strategies about covering the \$40 million initial shortfall/deficit
    - Transportation

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22.