

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS (FAC)

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Thomas Jefferson Middle School - Library

In Attendance: Heather Carkuff Joson, Jeff Chambers, Rosa Cheney, Michael DePalma, Mike Freda, John Giambalvo, David Goodman, Cynthia Hilton, Sally Hoekstra, Lois Koontz, Steven Leutner, Kelley Litzner, Nathan McQueen, Jim Meikle, Adam Rasmussen, Robert Ruiz, Graham Weinschenk.

1. Minutes from the November 8, 2021 approved. December 13, 2021 awaiting approval at February meeting.
2. Public Comment: James “Vell” Rives, Alistar Watson, Jessica Haney, Christina Headrick

Vel Reeves, co-chair of school health advisory board (along with three other members). Have some commentary, but primarily here to see the Air Quality Update by Jim Meikle.

- a. From policy viewpoint, the group requests building language into school policy for the renovations of existing buildings and construction of new buildings - stronger language for better air quality and ventilation.
- b. Draft language for a policy statement exists; group is seeking support for APS considering a formal CO2 level in classrooms (requires purchase of air-net monitors); six air changes per hour (5.5 changes removes 95% of particles as a minimum standard); and emergency recommendations for additional HEPA filtration and disabling ionizing aspect of air exchanges and still using them for filtration.
- c. Documentation exists for air filtration standards that supports a goal of six Air Changes per Hour (ACH). Recommends not using standard building codes for ACH goals, as they lag behind current suggested minimums for modern classrooms and air quality. Stated that these filtration measurements represent cost-effective methods for mitigating air quality needs that do not depend on the longer-term CIP cycles and larger expenses included in full-system overhauls.
- d. Desire to make a joint recommendation with the FAC at the mid-year point to the APS Board.
- e. Reid Goldstein is APS Board liaison, as this board falls under the Academic Office.

3. Liaison Reports:

BAC: No update. Question about where the BAC stands with budget. Barbara Kanninen would like to bring budget items to FAC to begin discussions as early as March 2022.

CCPTA: No December meeting.

JFAC: No update

Aquatics: No update

ASAC: No update

ASTL: No update

MCOMM: In the middle of the process for listing and prioritizing projects. Generally funded between \$6M-\$7M, but there were cuts due to Covid that affected the program. Hoping for higher budgets this year.

Transportation Committee: No update

SEPTA: No update

Internal Review: No update

4. Air Quality Update:

- Jim Meikle, Director of Maintenance, gave update.
- Provided schools with blue air filters and change-out schedule.
- Modular units distributed to schools and focused on common areas.
- Blue Air machine has been certified internationally as having no harmful emissions (No Ozone, etc.).
- Carrier Units have been very well-received as well.
- Any designs going forward will include latest codes for fresh air delivery units.
- Maintained centralized APS responsibility for budgeting and ordering for filters for all schools.
- Machines have a warning light that comes on when filters need to be changed.
- Working with custodians to ensure they understand the new responsibilities for changing filters.
- Question from non-FAC member: are there other models under consideration for use in APS? Answer from Jim: not at this time.

5. Projections (Planning & Evaluation):

- Robert Ruiz – principal planner for planning and evaluation, presented on the APS Strategic Plan (2018-2024) covering the Fall 2021 10-Year Projections.
- Objectives: Preview presentation for School Board slated for 10 February; understand enrollment projections and process
- Enrollment projections process includes new step of choosing a projections scenario, which enables finance staff to work on a draft budget and staffing estimates (meaning it's faster than in the past)

- 2007-2019, enrollment increased by 9,000+ students (50% increase). Projections tend to lag estimates, meaning that there's an art to assessing whether trends are long-term or short-term.
- 2020 pandemic year saw a decline in enrollment, which caused a decrease in accuracy for enrollment. 2021-2022 school year projected 28,375 students and actually saw 25,989 students enrolled. Uncertain if abrupt reversal in the upward trend is temporary due to Covid or more permanent.
- Fall 2021 projections utilize 2019,2020, and 2021 enrollment projections for 2022-2023 enrollment numbers.
- Projections are updated yearly, while CIP is updated every other year.
- Changes between Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 projections: not referring to prior years for projections; instead, using enrollment numbers as of September 30th, 2021 (same year numbers). Births rates are also a factor (2017-2026), as well as residential unit forecasts.
- Birthrates are declining in Arlington and nation-wide. This affects enrollment projects five years out and beyond (when students become the incoming Kindergarten students). This leads to more uncertainty in lower elementary cohorts. Upper-elementary, middle school, and high school projections are more stable based on actual data that flows up from the actual enrollment numbers.
- Current projection round is the most conservative trend since 2013.
- Implications for Budget and CIP:
 - o Enrollment projections provide staffing allocations and materials/supplies to schools
 - o If projections are too low: need for additional teachers and other impacts
 - o If projections are too high: more staff than needed without the ability to remove teachers; less funds for use on other budget needs
- Fall 2021 10-Year Projections report will be published online by January 28, 2022.
- Q&A:
 - o Q: Enrollment decline...is it just public schools? A: Yes.
 - o Q: Does the residential unit data come from County? A: Yes
 - o Q: Do you know how close 2021 forecast births was to actual births? A: Still don't know b/c not yet processed by State of Virginia (2020 took until Summer 2021)
 - o Q: Do we know where the students have gone (private schools, home schooling, etc.)? A: Not really. We know anecdotally that private school enrollment has increased, and that home schooling has, in fact, increased, but no specifics on where to get this type of information.
 - o Q: Three scenarios developed, and one was chosen. Can you describe the other two? A: There was a higher and a lower scenario. The medium was chosen, trended on the higher side, and incorporated some of the other trending data while still be relatively conservative. Statement from

questioner: even on the high side, trends are going down, so the risk appears to be on the lower-enrollment side. Presenter: much of the decline is a result of the lower birth rate; unknown if this trend will continue in the long-term.

- Q: If we look at the middle projection, can we see the relative break-down between elementary, middle, and high school in terms of the long-term trends? A: It's something we can consider. Questioner follow-up: it could tell us what pressure will be caused by the first drop-off in terms of magnitude. Presenter: noted that sometimes too much data for these projections can be counter-productive, especially as you look to the longer-term.

6. Annual Update (Planning & Evaluation):

- Lois Koontz from APS Planning and Evaluation presented.
- APS Board asked for annual update report. Generally given in January each year. Documents operational updates for the Board.
- Will be presented on February 10th to School Board. It builds on the projections report and helps provide tools for needed adjustments, such as relocatables, relocating pre-K programs, allocating choice school slots, etc.
- Provides a historical record and also covers annual changes both large (new buildings, etc.) and small (fine-tuning option seats, etc.).
- Going forward, projections will now be aggregated by school level (ES, MS, and HS) from 6-10 years out, recognizing that individual enrollment may be impacted by one or more decisions each year. Reliability of projections is less certain in the long-term.
- Q: On aggregating data, how will individual school projections be accounted for? A: These trends are still tracked by school, but much depends on upcoming trends and future changes.
- Q: What format does this document live in? Does it live in a database, or is it just provided in appendixes in a pdf? A: It's in pdf format for enrollment and projections, not in a database.
- Q: In the out years, are you tracking data in regions of the County? A: We do use planning corridors at the County level, and these trends to examine where the buildings exist and where new/updated facilities may come online.

7. Career Center Project – Building Level Planning Committee Update (Planning & Evaluation):

- Jeff Chambers, Asst. Superintendent for Facilities
- BLPC process will be a continuation of where the process ended two years ago, though the budget and goals as well as facility specs are different based on the updated Ed Spec.
- Goals for process: Same as the FY23-32 CIP published by Superintendent's office.
- Critical goals are to stay on budget and on time.
- Want to focus the community's input using the PRC standards.

- Looking to develop the Career Center and parking garage for \$170.48M or less. Exploring two levels of capacity (1,795 and 1,345). Gives Board an option to reduce size/scope depending on needs; however, building will be designed such that, if the smaller seat capacity is chosen, it could accommodate an expansion to the higher seat number in the future without a building re-work.
- Board has limited the site to a maximum number of students when combined with the other student populations already there.
- Emphasized that \$170.48M is a maximum and will try to find savings where possible.
- No plans made for existing Career Center Building; this is outside of the BLPC process and will be reserved for a separate evaluation of all sites as part of the FY23-32 CIP process. Same applies for the MPSA building.
- Concept design slated for February/March with an April 2022 review by the Board of the design. If approved, full design process by August with a Board review in September. Anticipating a use permit process by February 2023 and beginning construction in December 2023. New building slated for opening in November 2025 (Phase 1) and completion of the other two phases (parking center, field, mods to building) in the following year.
- Q: Have BLPC chairs been picked and what is the make-up of the committee? A: Don't have the list at this time, but about 50% of the people were previously on the Board and another 50% will be selected to ensure all organizations are appropriately represented.

8. Capital Project Update:

- Jeff Chambers presented.
- Abingdon: solar installation project is nearly complete. Working through minor issues.
- Cardinal Elementary: don't have solar panels moving forward right now because of costs. Sun Tribe is trying to work PPA (power purchase agreement) with APS. Down to about 150 punch list items. Dewatering moving ahead in January.
- Hamm MS: mediation on hold until after winter break.
- Education Center Re-use is on schedule for Fall 2022 opening.
- Escuela Key: kitchen finishes are substantially complete; still reworking HVAC/BAS activities; 80% of kitchen equipment delivered. Targeting end of January for completion.
- Fleet: working ADA improvements for elevator installation.
- Heights Bldg.: Working on third floor leaks. Central stair design being completed.
- Innovation ES: Kitchen is complete.
- ATS ES: Slated to be turned over next week.
- Wakefield: awaiting approval to get relocatables on-site. Think Big Lab making progress.
- Several schools have vestibule designs proceeding as planned.