

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS (FAC)

MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2022 – 6:30 PM

Hoffman Boston - Library

In Attendance: Heather Carkuff Joson, Jeff Chambers, Rosa Cheney (Chair), Michael DePalma, Mike Freda, John Giambalvo, David Goodman, Cynthia Hilton, Rebecca Hunter, Barbara Kanninen, Lois Koontz, Greg Lloyd, Nathan McQueen, James Meikle, Adam Rasmussen, Stacy Snyder, Graham Weinschenk, Bethany Sutton, Dr. Jason Ottley

1. Public Comment: One non-FAC member of the community was present, but no comments.
2. Liaison Reports:

JFAC: Request for APS staff to discuss swing space discussion at next JFAC meeting on April 23, particularly as it relates to joint-use facilities. JFAC is focused on "Missing Middle". No comments from JFAC on Long-Term Renovations Plan information sent.

Aquatics: Washington-Liberty lighting needs to be replaced, and master controls being repaired.

CCPTA: Comments on Long-Term Renovations Plan was turned in to APS Staff.

ASTL: Focus on math instruction.

SHAB: Graham Weinschenk volunteered to liaison to SHAB.

Career Center BLPC: No update. Between meetings.

3. Equity and the Built Environment:

Dr. Ottley introduced and discussed how physical environment can influence learning based on direct experiences as a student. Questions and discussion centered around the Equity PIP, PTA funding (possible partnerships), and especially Long-Range Renovations Plan:

- Should it include demographics/equity metrics as a stand-alone category? Or should evaluation of facilities include all the cumulative deficiencies and when you add them up it will give you a picture of where the weaknesses are or where most needs are? Trying to put together a framework might suffice for some schools but not all schools – need to look at gaps. Equity has focused largely on

academics but the shift to facilities is new. An equity audit could help expose the gaps. An audit will take you deeper. How do we apply the equity audit? The number crunching could take place. Qualitative measures through committee groups and an audit can help expose the gaps.

- We have new schools and old schools but where should we focus our funds? Natural lights or green space. Does it change by grade level? NO research. If the problem persists, how can we address? What can we do right now, with low hanging fruit? Social emotional learning ranks up there with academic achievement – when can students get out in green space or social communal space?
- Can we provide transportation to students through afterschool offers to address equity?

4. Budget Presentation:

Dr. Kanninen presented summary of Superintendent's proposed budget, including source and amount of revenue as well as proposed expenditures. Focus of the budget spending is staff compensation, special needs student learning (Special education, American sign language, English-learners, etc.), math and literacy, and making operations more efficient.

Questions and discussion centered around the following, with comments and discussion to be forwarded to BAC chair as feedback for their upcoming April 5, 2022 presentation to Board at Budget Work Session #5:

- Sustainability of Budget, including Debt Capacity and Debt Service: Concern stated regarding effect of upcoming CIP and inflation and economic outlook on future budget allocation to debt service. What CIP will the criteria from the long-range plan be implemented in? Are too many projects occurring before the long-range plan? Does the Board have enough information to make all the discussions necessary for the budget with the Career Center, Swing Space, Long-Range Plan?
- Reserves versus Capital Reserves: Should reserves be spent now? How much is available in capital reserves now compared to pre-COVID? How much will remain in reserves after budget year? \$35M was highest normal reserve, pre-COVID. \$20M will remain after this budget year.
- MC/MM:
 - Budget Allocation: The \$1.5 million cut last year falsely set the MCM budget at a lower level. Budget indicated that funding allocation of the MCM projects would return to pre-COVID levels. Clarification was provided that pre-COVID funding included funds for relocatables, but the upcoming budget does not include that funding. The funding allocation for major infrastructure vs MCM budget lines need to be clarified?

Three budget lines for Maintenance (1) Infrastructure (Bonded \$) – HVAC, lighting, windows, roof. (2) Operating budget for maintenance. (3) MCMM.

- Use of Reserves: Should capital reserves be used for MC/MM, and do we have a backlog of maintenance that needs to be addressed through reserves? Would APS have enough bandwidth to handle additional projects with more funds? Answer was that additional funds would not be efficiently used, since current budget allocation is meeting MC/MM's immediate needs and capabilities.
- Transportation:
 - Staffing: Changes and efficiencies resulting from Bell Time Study Project should help reduce number of routes and number of bus drivers needed. <https://www.apsva.us/engage/bell-study-project/>
 - Software: Transpark, the pre-COVID software, will remain in use, with improvements to features such as apps for parents ("find bus" etc). Software used during COVID was needed at that time because of reduced bus occupants allowed but will be abandoned.

5. MC/MM Program Update:

Mr. Meikle presented new process being used to determine project priorities and funding allocation for planned and unplanned projects, and then presented proposed projects and funding allocation for FY2023. Planned projects focus on HVAC, playgrounds, safety/security improvements, and painting and flooring refresh. Mr. Meikle confirmed that MC/MM Program would not be able to get more done with more funding unless additional money added for project management and staffing.

6. Swing Space Discussion: Moved to April meeting.