

2022-23 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, Sept 7, 2022

Syphax Building, Rooms 452-454

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:07 PM.

1. Seven members were present: Erik Sullivan (Chair), Michael Lyons (Vice Chair), Chuck Rush (Chair Emeritus), Nellie Carr, Katherine Christensen, Jennifer Wheelock, and Andy Greenwood
 - APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson
2. Welcome - Erik Sullivan
3. The June meeting minutes were approved by all members.
4. Public Comment -
 - Josh Folb - Thank you to the BAC for their work on the previous year's budget and for the compensation increases that budget included. Looking forward to a new year.
5. Budget Updates - Leslie Peterson
 - First budget estimate in October
 - Inflation increases are impacting costs to the school system and will likely have an impact on the current and future budgets
 1. Reimbursements have increased with inflation and extra funding has been given by the state for some expenses, but there is great difficulty in obtaining various resources
 - One-time funding used in last year's budget will need to be made up
 - Also keeping in mind economic forecasts that indicate the U.S. may be heading towards another recession and how that may impact APS
 - One of the first things to address, that will be a top priority for this and all future budgets, is compensation levels
 - . Analysis to be completed including hiring changes, particularly in relation to new hires/employee turnover. (mid-September to October timeframe)
6. School Board Budget Direction -
 - School Board Liaison will be Reid Goldstein - couldn't make tonight's meeting
 - Draft priorities are going to be voted on tomorrow by School Board
 - BAC can provide recommendations on Budget Direction which build upon the Board's priorities. May want to consider suggesting points related to:
 1. Focus on Metrics
 1. Progress and accountability will continue to drive data transparency
 2. Especially with regards to cost per student figures, additional data transparency is necessary for full understanding of APS impact
 2. Learning loss
 1. Summer school and social learning were huge concerns, can we see those impacts based off of incoming scores/metrics. Would

be good to see data on students served, students not served, and how they have been impacted

3. Will send out action item to BAC to solicit suggestions to provide to the Board

7. School Board Leveraging BAC -

- Looking for ideas re: how the School Board can better utilize the BAC's expertise and energy
 1. Provide input to Budget Direction
 2. Utilize BAC to collect broader community input / help build community engagement (See BAC Outreach and Recruitment section below)
 3. Cross-committee task force
 1. Work together on planning factors or other key topics (e.g., learning loss, etc.) that are directly tied to the School Board priorities and budget direction.
 1. Is this budget process or separate?
 2. Based on last year's discussion, not part of a budget discussion, but could be used to focus on certain areas
 3. Measure planning factors against budget-related metrics during initial discussions
 2. Possibly organize liaisons around Budget Direction priorities
 3. Reid will continue monthly committee chair meeting
 4. More actively provide input on policy changes
 5. Will send out action item to BAC to solicit suggestions to discuss with Reid in our October meeting

8. BAC Membership -

- Down to 10 BAC members. We lost 4 late last FY. We can have up to 15 BAC members. Of note: Other APS committees are struggling to find members as well
- Outreach and Recruitment -
 1. We [the BAC] need to get out in the community to try to encourage qualified community members to apply to join the BAC. The goal would be to find candidates that will help diversify the BAC... i.e., represent areas in the community, advocates for specific APS areas of interest (e.g., ESL), lower performing schools, etc. that are currently under-represented on the BAC.
 2. Suggest everyone identify one community group and go talk to them about the BAC to build awareness and to encourage people to consider joining the BAC
 3. Considerations:
 1. Maybe make a bit more of a celebration of members to recognize their contribution
 2. Need to be able to discuss potential impact in order to motivate new members
 3. Use the APS webpage link for the BAC to pass along to potential members
 4. Action: Each BAC member go out to one community organization (ex: PTAs) to speak and spread awareness. (Will include in action items that will be sent in the next couple of days.)

5. Action: Michael and Erik to assemble a one-pager, slideshow, and talking points for community recruitment/engagement
 - BAC admin -
 1. Action: Current members need to reapply so that the Deputy School Board Clerk can make update committee records --- use the link on the APS committees page for the BAC.
 2. Action: Each BAC member needs to review the contact info in the member.xls that was distributed and send any updates to Erik
 3. Action: the BAC bios from last year will be sent out. The BAC will need to review their current bio and send any updates to Erik.
9. BAC Meeting Schedule & Forum –
- State law allows for 25% of meetings to be virtual per calendar year. That amounts to three BAC meetings each calendar year
 - Cannot have back-to-back virtual meetings.
 - Individual members can request ahead of time to be virtual (3 times per calendar year) outside of the all-virtual meetings. Individuals can also request to attend all meetings virtually due to necessary health concerns
 - All in-person meetings must have an in-person quorum (6 members)
 - The BAC voted and approved:
 1. The meeting schedule distributed and reviewed during the meeting
 2. Two meetings in the fall this year to be virtual (October and December)
 3. Two meetings in the spring to be virtual (March 15th and March 29th)
 1. If the March 29th meeting isn't needed the BAC can vote to make a different meeting virtual --- potentially the June meeting
 2. This would leave 1 virtual meeting available for the Fall of 2023
10. Council liaison assignments
- Not sure that having a liaison assigned and attending the other council meetings is most effective approach. Ends up just being a read-out of what they talked about.
 - May want to consider having someone come from the other council to talk about what the top things they are focused on.
 - Erik will attend Reid's committee chairs meeting on Sept 29 to find out their focus areas and discuss how work across committees better
11. Potential Deep-Dive Topics for 2022-2023 BAC Meetings – A draft / working list of potential topics for upcoming meetings was discussed that included:
- Planning factors
 - Learning loss – there is an enormous focus on this throughout the country. Might be good to get more details on what the plans are for this and next FY.
 - Options schools - we started talking about this one last December (Lisa Stengle came). Do we want to dig deeper?
 - Compensation – was a topic in last Jan meeting. Given comp is 90% of our operating budget it may make sense to come back to each year – question is, what specifically do we want to talk about related to compensation?
 - Transportation
 - Equity - Budget last year focused on getting people in place. Might be good to get an overview of initiatives/programs are planned this and next FYs?
 - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – don't have one this year so not a likely topic

- Enrollment – Robert talked to us last year about the approach & methodology so discussion would likely be shorter and just talk about changes this year and impact to out-year projections
- County budget – might be good to be better aligned with the county and have the county board liaison or the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission rep or the County board director come talk to us this fall?
- Interest rates – rates are rising. Might be good to discuss in more detail the impact to our carrying costs and overall budget
- Reserves – use of reserves was one of the topics we highlighted to the Board at the end of the year. Given the budgeting challenges discussed it might be good to do a deep dive into reserves --- types, how used, balance trends.
- Special Education - David Rosenblatt spoke with us last Feb – not sure we need again?
- IT efficiencies - Raj (APS Information Services) presented last Nov on IT Efficiencies – not sure if an update makes sense?
- Other potential topics?
- Action – Given short on time, will ask each BAC member to pick top 3 topics (or add one in lieu of ones discussed)

11. Next Steps

- Erik will send out BAC action item list to include:
 1. Send ideas on how SB can better leverage the BAC
 2. Identify and schedule one opportunity for community outreach (e.g., pta meeting, civic assn meeting, etc.)
 3. Checking membership list to ensure contact information is correct
 4. Updating member bios. Please review and approve these as well.
 5. Reminder for BAC current members will to reapply to BAC through the APS website
 6. Review the BAC 2022-2023 calendar and flag any conflicts
 7. Review Potential BAC Topics document, and vote on top three potential topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.