

## 2022-23 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Syphax

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:03pm.

1. 5 members were present: Erik Sullivan (Chair), Michael Lyons (Vice Chair), Chuck Rush, Jenn Wagener, and Nellie Carr
  - APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson and County Board liaison Reid Goldstein (via Microsoft Teams)
2. Public comment
  - Chris (FAC) – opportunity to better integrate strategic plan and budget process together
3. Updates from School Board
  - Proposed School Board budget next week; would appreciate any feedback from the BAC
4. Updates from recent School Board work session
  - Spring enrollment updates
    - Additional 14 FTEs for Elementary and Secondary positions, primarily for Special Ed
    - Offset some of the increases by eliminating FTEs from frozen positions
    - Total financial updates (additional costs) of \$483,047
5. BAC discussion on budget-related topics
  - Special education needs – the population of need has been growing, as well as the severity of the need
  - Option schools
    - High level review of option schools done by the auditor a few years ago
      - Transportation costs were higher
      - Recommended to do a more in depth audit
    - If the demand is high and the cost is not more, should we consider doing more?
    - Each program is going to be different in terms of its cost-value tradeoff
    - Would be helpful to have a quality narrative on these programs by doing a cost study and value analysis
  - Cost per pupil
    - Comparing to other school districts makes it look like APS is overspending compared to other jurisdictions
    - We don't have an effective way to articulate and break this out
  - Lack of metrics to support investments and initiatives
    - BAC has made this recommendation multiple years
  - Sustainability
    - Budget forecast includes Revenue increases (from the County), and expense increases without the dramatic enrollment growth we have seen in the recent past
      - And still shows a large deficit
    - Risk in the County revenue forecast due to the commercial real estate vacancy rates, Amazon delay of phase 2 and upcoming Metro funding
  - Cost sharing with the County
    - Security/safety
    - SEL/counseling
    - School meals

- Community activities fund
  - Compensation
    - Substitute challenges- unclear how much it is related to compensation and the balance of how much it will cost
      - Competitive rates (on parity with other substitute jobs)
      - Believe there are still challenges with the HR process to bring in substitutes (and other new hires)
6. Next steps
- Look at School Board priorities and how the budget investments aligns with these
  - Move next week's meeting to April 12<sup>th</sup> (virtual) to provide a draft document for the School Board

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.