

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS

MEETING AGENDA

May 9, 2016

Carlin Springs Elementary School, Library

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| 6:30 – 7:00 | Tour |
| 7:00 - 7:05 | Welcome |
| 7:05 – 7:10 | Public Comment |
| 7:10 - 7:10 | Approve Minutes |
| 7:10 – 7:25 | Ed Spec Presentation/Discussion – Stacy Snyder |
| 7:25 – 8:25 | CIP Update – Kelly King/John Chadwick |
| 8:25 - 8:50 | Committee Assignments and Reports |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCPTA – Don Weinstein• Parks and Recreation – Pam Silberstein• ACI – Bill Schimmel• BAC & Budget Workgroup• NES at TJ, Stratford, and Wilson BLPC Updates – Greg Greeley, Jeff Turner, Miles Mason• Project Updates – Benjamin Burgin |
| 8:50 - 9:00 | Wrap Up and Next Steps |

Next Meeting: June 13, 2016, McKinley Elementary School

Up Coming Meetings:

- CIP Work Session #1: Tuesday, May 10, Ed Center room 101
- Wilson BLPC/PFRC: Wednesday, May 11
- CIP Work Session #2: Tuesday, May 17, Ed Center room 101
- NES@Jefferson Site BLPC/PFRC: Wednesday, May 18
- School Board Meeting/Public Hearing on proposed FY 2017-26 CIP: Thursday, May 19
- JOINT School Board/County Board CIP Work Session: Tuesday May 24, County Board Offices, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.
- NES@Jefferson Site BLPC: Wednesday, June 1
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 7:30 PM
- CIP Work Session #4: Tuesday, June 7, Ed Center room 101
- NES@Jefferson Site BLPC/PFRC: Wednesday, June 15

**Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2016**

Members in attendance: Ben Burgin, George Buzby, John Chadwick, Michael Freda, Eric Harold, Kelly King, Lois Koontz, Zach Larnard, Greg Lloyd, Steve Maguire, Miles Mason, Heather Obora, John Peck, Pam Silberstein, Stacy Snyder, Meg Tuccillo, Jeff Turner, Don Weinstein and Lionel White.

James Lander and Tannia Talento attended part of the meeting.

1. Facility Tour: Principal Corina Coronel and Assistant Principal Michelle McCarthy provided a tour of Carlin Springs Elementary School. Of particular interest was the modern design (it is the second newest elementary school in Arlington), the courtyard maintained by a student gardening club, and the interesting design of the cafeteria.
2. Welcome: Kelly King opened the meeting at 7:10 in the Carlin Springs school library.
3. Approval of Minutes: The draft April minutes were approved without discussion.
4. Public Comment: Kelly asked if there were any citizens present who wished to address the FAC. Hearing no response, she moved to the next agenda item.
5. Ed Spec Presentation/Discussion: Stacy Snyder led a discussion of the Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) used in Arlington. She began by defining what they are and how they are used. Broadly speaking, the specs establish the size and furnishings of Arlington classrooms to ensure an appropriate and equitable learning environment for each grade level. Stacy noted that the current Ed Specs have not been formally updated since 2004. John Chadwick said that APS improves the model for each new school through a process of continuous improvement.

Stacy suggested that the specs should include a statement of vision and values to be applied to the specs. For instance, a value could be that APS wants all normal classrooms to include a source of natural light. Several FAC members thought that this was a good idea, and that a statement of vision and values would be a good preface/forward to the Ed Specs. This might be a good task for the FAC to work on next year.
6. CIP Discussion: The next section of the meeting was devoted to a lengthy and detailed review of the draft presentation that Kelly prepared for the School Board's work session on the CIP on 10 May. Before the general discussion, Kelly invited James Lander (who needed to leave early for a meeting at Washington-Lee) to provide his thoughts on the CIP. James said that he was

open to all variety of ideas for the next 10 years, but the immediate focus must be on the next two years. He briefly discussed the current interest in the Reed and Ed Center sites, as well as the potential need for a fourth comprehensive high school. James suggested that relocatable classrooms would be an APS fixture for many years to come.

Kelly next began to go through her slides, inviting discussion and comments from the FAC members. She began with the high schools, which generated the most discussion. Considerable attention was paid to the “numbers” (the projected number of high school seats), with Lionel White and others helping to ensure they were accurate and corresponded to the official APS projections. The FAC is very concerned about over-enrollment at Washington-Lee in 2017, and has determined that 2021 is a critical planning year. Even with the use of relocatables, there will be a need for additional common spaces, including cafeteria and gymnasium.

For each school level, Kelly outlined a draft of the FAC’s findings, thoughts, and questions. The discussion was wide-ranging, including the Arlington Tech program, “what-if” scenarios, the possibility of moving the I-B program into relocatables at Washington-Lee, a list of extracurricular activities at the high school level prepared by John Peck, and the potential for organizing a community symposium that would bring in speakers to examine new and best practices for school facilities.

Kelly concluded by saying that she would continue to welcome comments via e-mail.

7. Committee Assignments and Reports:

- CCPTA: Don briefly noted that the CCPTA’s April meeting focused on school testing.
- SEPTA: George Buzby read a statement from SEPTA’s leadership, which is attached to these minutes. The statement urges that parents be permitted to participate in the interior design of the new elementary school planned for the Jefferson site. Due to the late hour and the need for Kelly to consult with Facilities & Operations, discussion of this request was deferred until our June meeting.
- Parks and Recreation: No report.
- ACI: No report.
- BAC: No report.
- Stratford BLPC: Jeff Turner said that the BLPC has not met recently. John added that there would be a public hearing on the placement of the driveway, which continues to be contentious.
- New Elementary at Jefferson: Stacy reported on BLPC meetings for the “New Henry” school, which have discussed, among other issues, how to provide additional parking for the site. There was a brief mention of the need to better coordinate the activities of the BLPC and the PFRRC.

8. Project Updates: Ben Burgin had distributed a written version of the project updates prior to the meeting. He added that APS has received three construction bids for Abingdon modernization, all of which were under estimate, and that Wakefield High School has received LEED Gold certification.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on 13 June 2016 at McKinley Elementary School.

Attachment

SEPTA Statement to FAC (5/9/16)

As the Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) Liaison to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC), I have been encouraged by SEPTA leadership to voice concern on behalf of the APS special education community about a matter related to interior design of the Elementary School to be built at Thomas Jefferson Park and I seek your support.

We request that parents be consulted about interior designs on building construction plans as the planning is being done, when such parental/community input can still be incorporated into what is eventually built.

We have learned that it is APS' practice that design of interior spaces is exclusively the responsibility of APS, the Instruction Committee of the responsible School BLPC. In other words, the design of the interior spaces of the elementary school to be constructed at Thomas Jefferson Park is to be considered *exclusively* the domain of APS staff. At best, impacted parents would be consulted / notified about interior designs only after plans have been coordinated and are largely in place.

Not surprisingly, such exclusionary practices rankle parents of Arlington students...and not just those parents of students with special needs. For Arlingtonians, "inclusion" is not an abstract concept, but rather a philosophy and practice that fosters tangible and positive impacts on children and the community. Inclusion done right has been shown to improve student performance across all categories of students, not just students with disabilities.

The inclusion of parents in decisions that affect their children encourages trust and engagement. This is something that should be at the core of APS' mission. SEPTA seeks inclusive, special-needs friendly design inside and out for all schools in Arlington County. Accordingly, we request parents be consulted about interior designs as the planning is being done, when such parental/community input can still be incorporated into what is eventually built. We will continue to push for APS to embrace inclusion in all facets of the schools' planning and operations. SEPTA seeks FAC support in reversing this exclusionary practice. Thank you for the opportunity to address FAC this evening.