

# **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS**

## **MEETING AGENDA**

March 9, 2015

7:00 p.m.

McKinley, Library

A brief tour of McKinley will precede the regular meeting; please gather in the front entrance of the school at 6:30 p.m. The FAC meeting will be held in the library at 7 p.m., following the tour.

**1. Welcome**

**2. Approve Minutes**

**3. Budget Discussion**

**4. Discussion of FAC next steps – John Chadwick**

- Available Sites
- Identification of Needs
- Near term, short term and long term solutions
- Look at how we determine ‘Overcapacity’

**5. Committee Assignments and Reports**

- Community Facilities Study – Jason Rylander/Kelly King/Greg Greeley
- Projection/Capacity Subcommittee – Greg Greeley/Lionel White
- ACI – Rebecca Hunter
- CCPTA – Don Weinstein
- MC/MM Program – Heather Obora
- TJ Workgroup – Greg Greeley/Janine Velasco
- WRAPS – Kelly King/Heather Obora
- Abingdon – Christian Dorsey

**6. Project Updates – Scott Prisco**

**7. Wrap Up**

### Up Coming Meetings:

- School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, **7:30 PM**
  - Budget Work session #3
- Abingdon ES BLPC: Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2015, **7:00 PM**
  - Budget Work session #4
- Abingdon ES PFRC: Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 7:00 PM, Abingdon ES
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:30PM
  - Public Hearing on Supt. Proposed FY16 Budget
- School Board Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2015, 7:30PM
- Joint County Board/School Board Work Session: Friday, April 10, 2015, **9:00AM**
  - Room 101
  
- Next FAC Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2015 – Swanson ES

**Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2015**

Members in attendance: Benjamin Burgin, John Chadwick, Gerry Collins, Christian Dorsey, Laura Saul Edwards, Mike Freda, Greg Greeley, Eric Harold, Kelly King, Greg Lloyd, Miles Mason, Jim Meikle, Ron Molteni, Heather Obora, Scott Prisco, Abby Raphael, Bill Schimmel, Pam Silberstein, Meg Tucillo, Janine Velasco, Don Weinstein and Lionel White.

1. Facility Tour: Many FAC members toured McKinley Elementary School prior to the start of the meeting. McKinley is preparing for a major expansion and renovation as part of the More Seats program.
2. Welcome: Kelly King opened the meeting at 7:00pm in the McKinley Library. She noted that Jason Rylander would be unable to attend tonight's meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the February 2015 meeting were approved without changes.
4. Budget Discussion: Kelly asked if anyone had comments on the proposed APS budget. Gerry Collins urged that the County Board increase its support for Arlington's growing student population. There was discussion of whether the county should mandate that builders be required to contribute to the expansion of school facilities. Abby Raphael noted that this is the practice in Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, but that Arlington has not, to date, adopted such a requirement. Lionel White reminded the members that new single-family housing is bumping up enrollment at a higher rate than new apartment buildings, with the exception of Certified Affordable Housing developments.

Following additional discussion, the FAC unanimously adopted a "sense of the group" motion, proposed by Don Weinstein, stating:

**"The APS Facilities Advisory Council suggests that Arlington County actively consider creative funding approaches that will support the construction of new, and expansion of existing school facilities."**

It was noted that there were no issues with the proposed budget as written. This information would be discussed at a meeting with the School Board and the Advisory Council Chairs.

5. Discussion of FAC Next Steps: John Chadwick and Kelly King led a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion of interim solutions to provide additional student seats, focusing on the elementary grades in South Arlington and the middle grades in North Arlington. They distributed a list of public parks and recreation centers that might be considered as sites for interim or permanent seats, or where relocatables could be placed. The listing highlighted facilities that--based on a very preliminary survey--showed particular promise, and should be carefully

studied. It was emphasized that the County Board has clearly and publicly stated that APS must carefully review all available public property before putting forward any proposals similar to the one to build on the Thomas Jefferson site. John said that he has begun to tour sites with county staff. He also said that James Lander has sent a letter to the County Board asking for permission to move forward on feasibility studies on potential county-owned sites.

The emphasis, at least for now, is on interim solutions, since the original timeline for building a new elementary school in South Arlington is no longer feasible. Laura Saul Edwards asked about the source of funding for interim seating solutions. Abby noted that we are hoping that the county will make a decision regarding interim solutions by the end of the month. Ron Molteni urged that we avoid another “rabbit hole” scenario similar to the Thomas Jefferson site.

Kelly restated that the primary interim projects we are focused on include: elementary seats for South Arlington, relocation of the Stratford program students to an interim facility until the new Wilson School is built, and interim seats for Swanson and Williamsburg Middle School students. These interim solutions would be for the 2016-2017 school year. As of now, 2015-2016 will be handled with program relocations and relocatables.

Kelly mentioned that parent representatives from the Montessori program are interested in speaking to the FAC (they last did so about two years ago). Following discussion, the FAC decided to offer them an invitation.

John said that his team was talking to the Virginia Hospital Center about their Edison and Carlin Spring Road sites.

Kelly noted that at this time we are in a bit of a holding pattern until APS continues to research the viability of the options and discusses which sites the County might let us use.

#### 6. Committee Assignments and Reports:

- CCPTA: No report. Don noted that the February meeting was on the same evening as the FAC’s meeting and no minutes had been posted.
- Community Facilities Study: Greg Greeley and Kelly said that the group has begun meeting and holding public sessions. The study will present principles that will inform the 2016 CIP. John noted that there have been productive meetings with the county.
- ACI: No report.
- Projection/Capacity Subcommittee: Lionel White is busy assembling information and preparing a new boundary tool. The FAC briefly discussed the long-range projection process.
- MC/MM: Jim Meikle said that the Superintendent’s budget would provide sufficient funding for MC/MM. He also announced that the contract to provide consistent infrastructure preventive maintenance at Wakefield High School is in place.
- Thomas Jefferson Working Group: This group has disbanded.

- WRAPS: Kelly King noted that the proposal to declare the Wilson School an historic site, which was opposed by the School Board, is now in the hands of the County Board. There is also continuing discussion about the commercial property owned by Penzance Corporation; Abby cautioned that we should stay focused on the school portion of the project. Overall, WRAPS is winding up its work.
- Abingdon Modernization and Expansion: Christian Dorsey reported that the process lost a bit of momentum due to the winter weather, but is generally on track. There may be some issues with parking that will need to be resolved.

7. Project Updates: Scott provided a brief rundown on several of the largest ongoing projects:

- Discovery Elementary School: A recovery schedule is in place to make up for time lost due to bad weather.
- Ashlawn Elementary School: Most of the punch work will be completed by the end of the month. Work remains on the grass and the track.
- Thomas Jefferson Middle School: The waterproofing is almost done.
- Taylor Elementary School: Bids are out for new roofing.
- McKinley Elementary School: There are seven pre-qualified bidders for the expansion and renovation contract.
- Benjamin Burgin was introduced as the new Assistant Director of Design and Construction for APS. Ben will speak at our April session.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:00pm on 13 April 2015 at Swanson Middle School. Any changes will be announced.