

**2018 – 2019 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**  
**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

The meeting started at 7:05 PM.

1. Welcome
  - a. Twelve members were present: Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin (Chair), Bob Ramsey (co-Chair), Juan Gordon, Sr., Melanie Bowen, David Rosenblatt, Cristina Diaz-Torres, Lida Anestidou, Heather Jones, Lars Florio, Gianmaria Vanzuilli, Sheila Leonard, Jennifer Wagener; and APS staff member Tameka Lovett-Miller.
2. Public Comment (Josh Folb representing Arlington Education Association)
  - a. Some concerns around the Amazon announcement and something AEA will be watching
  - b. Concerns that buying power of salaries today will buy less in the future
  - c. Small percentage of APS staff actually live in Arlington
  - d. Amazon effect
    - i. Higher costs in Arlington, particularly for those who rent in Arlington
  - e. There was discussion around the Amazon talking points put out by Arlington Economic Development
    - i. Recommendation to circulate and watch the press announcement on Facebook live
3. Liaison Reports
  - a. FAC (Stacy Snyder and Lida Anestidou)
    - i. Important to keep an eye on how Amazon impacts our need for school seats in Arlington
      1. We urge APS and the County to work together more closely on these issues
  - b. CCPTA (Cecilia)
    - i. Large disparity across PTA budgets in Arlington
    - ii. Policies around what expenses PTAs can fund or not fund
    - iii. SEPTA – new PTA for Special Education
      1. There are a lot of resources available across the county but they are not optimized in terms of people knowing how to consume these services
  - c. ACI – no liaison
  - d. ECBC (Bob)
    - i. Meetings are happening but not a lot of input happening
    - ii. Discussion around whether the Education Center needs flexibility to be converted into an elementary school in the future
  - e. ACTC (Josh Folb)
    - i. David is going to serve as our liaison on the committee going forward
    - ii. How to get kids out of buses and into alternative modes
      1. Discussion about the need for improved crosswalks
4. County Close-out Funds
  - a. \$21.9 million in total
    - i. Hold \$16.5 million for anticipated shortfalls
    - ii. \$3.4 million into reserve (includes \$3.0 million for APS)

iii. Balance for unplanned needs

5. Partnership Discussion

- a. National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) (Jeanne Comeau)
  - i. Education and support programs for individuals and community members living with mental health condition
    - 1. 15 full time employees and 150+ volunteers
  - ii. Partners with other non-profits and agencies (school, courts, etc.)
  - iii. NAMI does not have a specific recommendation for APS in terms of the ideal staffing levels for social workers/psychologists
  - iv. NAMI working on programs that are geared towards elementary schools; most programs today geared towards middle and high schools
  - v. NAMI does not have a formal partnership with APS to provide services
- b. Potential partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)
  - i. They have closer ties with Fairfax and Alexandria than Arlington
  - ii. There are interesting opportunities to work together

6. Other Business

- a. Handout about Post Mortem BAC recommendations from last year's budget process
- b. Discussion about BAC analysis of 5-year trends of proposed budget cuts versus adopted budget

Meeting concluded at 9:14PM.