

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2019 – 7:00 pm

The Heights – Library

In attendance: Jeff Chambers, Rosa Cheney, Michael DePalma, Mike Freda, John Giambalvo, Charles “Chip” Goyette, Sally Hoekstra, Sarah Johnson, Steven Leutner, Greg Lloyd, Miles Mason, James Meikle, Scott Milam, Colleen Pickford, Shellie Ramirez, Adam Rasmussen, Heather Sauve, Stacy Snyder, Lisa Stengle

1. Minutes for both June and September approved.
2. Liaison Reports
 - a. Meeting was focused on bullying.
 - b. Arlington Career Center Expansion: Concept design is being developed for approval by School Board in March 2020, picking up from recommendations from Career Center Working Group. Concept design will include building massing, site layout, project phasing, and cost estimates. The project intent is to be “the jewel on the pike”, with 800 seat new high school including one athletic field, expansion of the Career Center from to 500 seats, expansion of Arlington Tech to 600 seats, leave Columbia Pike library, and leave Montessori. Long term (10 years out or more) the Montessori would go away and allow for expansion of the high school to include additional field space with spectator seating, and a pool, like all the other neighborhood high schools.
Transportation study of existing modes (car, bike, bus, etc) reviewed, and this was the most intense discussion so far, specifically as it relates to whether to build 2 underground levels of parking, 1 underground level of parking, or no underground parking (i.e. very little if any parking on site). Adjacent neighborhood is concerned with traffic and mostly parking. Traffic will need to be joint solution with the County.
First draft of Ed Specs issued.
 - c. No update from SEPTA or BAC.
 - d. JFAC Meeting tomorrow – agenda presented, and many FAC members will be in attendance. JFAC started over the summer scoping and visioning a public facilities masterplan with scoping and visioning subcommittees. Suggest looking at operational savings resulting from joint programs and not just facilities/land. Need to look at security needs for Schools compared to County.
 - e. Sustainability Advisory Committee: Teachers are being rewarded to engage in more sustainability programs. Recycling is big confusion within the schools. Schools have set their own green goals, separate from the County’s.
3. Sep 30 Enrollment Report: Projections were pretty close to actual enrollment.

Some data changed slots from last year. For instance, the Career Center full time students now have their own line item. These full-time students were previously counted on the enrollment charts as part of their neighborhood high school. Similarly, Pre-K students are now broken out separately, and previously, they were included in the school's overall enrollment numbers.

Boundary process numbers predictions were off compared to the Sep 30 Enrollment Report. Some families moved back into their original school boundary. There was some unknown regarding which families would keep their kids in Montessori once it moved out of Drew area. Option schools are difficult to predict.

Enrollment exceeded 1960 numbers last year and this year.

4. AFSAP Recap: AFSAP and CIP information is regularly updated on APS website.

Staff Priorities for FY 2021-30 CIP: No additional seats needed for high school level, if continue with current projects at year 2024-2025, middle school needs 500 seats, and considering K-8 Montessori or Immersion school. At year 2024-2025, Elementary schools will need ~700 seats in either one school or two additions around Rosslyn/Ballston, Columbia Pike, or Route 1 corridors. Considerations will be flushed out in series of working groups.

Capacity numbers for beginning and milestones in 2021-30 CIP reviewed, with projections for middle school and elementary schools. Compared existing 2019-28 CIP with new 2021-30 CIP. More seats needed sooner than 2019-28 CIP had assumed, and 2019-28 CIP did not schedule that need to be met sooner because of bond rating/debt capacity and competing fund allocation. Projections and needs beyond 2024-2025 are based on assumptions such as ongoing birth rate and expected construction of housing units, but this is pure projection.

5. Preliminary Boundary Process: Boundary change required because of new Reed school will be online and adjusted attendance zone for ASFS. Three phases of boundary process include:

- a. Pre-Boundary Planning Phase (Nov 2019-Jan 2020) - Includes community engagement meetings, and then further reports back to FAC for feedback.
- b. Planning Unit Data Review Phase (March – May 2020)
- c. Actual Boundary Change Phase (Sep 2020 – December 2020)

Process will include future program changes and potential schedule for further boundary changes. Will still try to honor “move each child only once within a grade level” during boundary changes. Boundary change process feeds into needs and decisions that get made in the CIP, especially when it comes to locations within the County.

6. Potential CIP Projects, to be presented at JFAC: The list does not address age of building or whether the current facility is not equivalent to other facilities. All of APS buildings have been well maintained with the bond program to replace roofs (including solar) and update mechanical systems and windows, etc. AFSAP does not look at operational needs.

The list includes additions only for the smaller schools where an expansion is worthwhile because the school could be doubled and the new capacity would meet the average school sizes throughout the County. Otherwise, the assumption is the building is a tear down and build a new, bigger school. Some schools were not included (such as Randolph) because of nearby new school has a lot of capacity (Fleet).

Suggest organizing list by zone, instead of alphabetical. Suggest show schools with no improvements/projects to be listed but with indication of why no improvements/projects not shown.

Another study is ongoing to show maximum capacity at each school, including growth via relocatables and maximum cafeteria seating. Concern was raised regarding whether these numbers will make it seem like there is not overcrowding at schools with relocatables, especially considering relocatables are a temporary solution. Definitions do not exist for ‘permanent’ and ‘temporary’ in terms of how long a relocatable might exist before it is considered ‘permanent’.