

## 2019 – 2020 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 20, 2019

The meeting started at 7:05 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Twelve members were present: Bob Ramsey (Chair), Melanie Bowen (Vice-Chair), Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin (Past-Chair), Cristina Diaz-Torres, Chuck Rush, Erik Sullivan, Wei Chen, Juan Gordon, Sr., Katherine Christensen, Lisa Blackwell, Jennifer Wagener, and Dedra Curteman (Lida Anestidou attended via phone)
  - b. APS staff member Leslie Peterson
  - c. Welcome New Member – Dedra Curteman
  
2. Public Comment
  - a. Josh Folb, from the Arlington Education Association (AEA), provided a salary comparison for teachers with a master's degree in APS versus other Washington DC area jurisdictions
  - b. The data shows that APS lags behind most jurisdictions. AEA conclusion is that a salary study is necessary (which is forthcoming).
  - c. BAC question as to whether data exist for the distribution of APS teachers across the various years of experience.
  - d. Outstanding question: How is APS doing with our specialty teachers (special ed, ESL, etc?)
  
3. Reports
  - a. School Board Update – no report
  - b. Liaison Reports
    - i. ACTL – Met a couple of weeks ago; all the subcommittees did a brief report; informational session
    - ii. FAC – CIP will focus on Elementary Schools; also, a need for Middle Schools but that is likely to happen in the next CIP
    - iii. Career Center Expansion Building Committee – meeting happening tonight
    - iv. Education Center Building Committee – no update
    - v. ACTC (Transportation) – year-end report approved, including a motion to continue the ART transit pilot. Continued work on hub stations
    - vi. CCPTA – Recycling initiative to reduce the amount of liquids that end up in the trash and recycling bins
  
4. Minutes from October Meeting were approved by all members

5. Equity Policy Review – Bob thanked Cristina and other BAC members who contributed to our review. Sent to APS drafting committee October 30 with everyone getting a copy.
6. New Policy Implementation Procedure (Charter) for the BAC -- to discuss in December meeting, Leslie to circulate in advance.
7. Budget Planning Discussion -- Leslie provided information about the Arlington County budget guidance:
  - a. 3-4% Revenue increase projection – therefore no budget gap in current estimate
  - b. No tax increase in the budget – ideally reduce the tax rate
  - c. Schools would get between \$19 and \$27 million additional funding above the currently programmed amount in APS budget
  - d. This additional funding for the schools, however, does not close the school budget gap
8. Draft Scope of Work for a Compensation Study
  - a. Leslie presented a draft prepared by Finance and HR which has already been shared with and commented upon by various employee groups
  - b. The BAC engaged in lively discussion and provided valuable feedback despite the challenge of viewing the document for the first time on this occasion

The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.