

## 2019 – 2020 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 12, 2020

The meeting started at 7:03 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Fourteen members were present: Bob Ramsey (Chair), Melanie Bowen (Vice-Chair), Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, Erik Sullivan, Wei Chen, Heather Jones, Katherine Christensen, Lisa Blackwell, Juan Gordon, Jr., Chuck Rush, Cristina Diaz-Torres, Lida Anestidou, Dedra Curteman, and Jennifer Wagener Sheila on the phone.
  - b. APS staff member Leslie Peterson
  - c. School Board Liaison Monique O'Grady
2. Public Comment
  - a. Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association: AEA is looking forward to the budget coming out and has been advocating for a "budget of needs"
    - i. The County-APS revenue sharing agreement provides for a lower percentage of budget funds for Arlington versus other nearby jurisdictions
    - ii. AEA is hoping the APS Board will push forward a needs-based budget (which supports higher compensation), even if it exceeds what the County is expecting
3. Destination 2027: Education's Contribution – The BAC received a presentation by Abby Raphael, Co-Chair
  - a. Initiative of the Public Health Department – they are required to put together a comprehensive plan every 10 years
  - b. A wide steering committee met for a year to put together the report
    - i. Key fundamentals: Data, Awareness, Collaboration and Access to Resources
    - ii. Have since been collaborating with the various equity organizations around Arlington, and meeting with advisory groups
  - c. Report results
    - i. A 10-year difference in life expectancy in Arlington based on who you are and where you live
    - ii. Community conditions impact performance and outcomes
    - iii. Disparities in discipline
    - iv. Variations in school subject scores across different race/ethnicity groups
    - v. Certain Arlington neighborhoods have 5x more child poverty than others
  - d. Arlington County Equity Resolution – requires each department to apply an equity approach to the budget process
  - e. For APS – how to embed equity in all areas: budget, CIP, boundaries, policies, student success, partnerships
    - i. Who benefits?
    - ii. Who is burdened?
    - iii. Who is missing?
    - iv. How do we know/what data do we have?
  - f. Recommended a hire at County level and APS level to focus on Equity, as well as a permanent team
    - i. County has not yet put together a position for this

- g. Many opportunities for the County and APS to work together on these initiatives
4. Equity Initiatives – Arron Gregory, APS Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
    - a. Arron has been in the role for about 2 weeks – he’s talking to people, listening and soliciting information from people to help him learn and get up to speed
    - b. Equity needs to be a framework to drive priorities
    - c. He believes it has been taking school systems about 3 years to come up with a useful equity policy
      - i. Reviewing the work already done
      - ii. Use a team to assist him with this
    - d. System of schools versus a school system
      - i. Principals have a lot of individual control within their school
      - ii. Community around the school strongly drives the expectations
      - iii. PTA budgets vary widely
    - e. Budget tradeoffs should be compared against the APS strategic plan
      - i. If a goal is to close the achievement gap, is APS able to produce results and data that achieve this if we invest additional money in this area?
      - ii. What is the necessary investment (in time, resources and dollars) to allow something to be successful?
        1. Typically 3 to 5 years is the national trend
  5. Tour of Finance and BAC Web Pages
    - a. [www.apsva.us/budget-finance](http://www.apsva.us/budget-finance)
      - i. Lots of valuation information available
      - ii. Current and historical WABE guide, planning factors, Capital Improvement Plan
  6. Minutes from January Meeting approved by all members
  7. Reports
    - a. School Board Update
      - i. Budget coming soon
      - ii. Board concerned about addressing the DOJ settlement initiatives and EL learners
    - b. Facilities Advisory Council
      - i. CIP had a working session this week to merge the updated projections with the CIP – this information will be posted online and could be good for the BAC to review
    - c. Education Center initiatives
      - i. The next meeting will be March 6<sup>th</sup> and Bob is hoping someone can cover this meeting since he has a conflict
        1. Dedra volunteered
    - d. Career Center Expansion Building Committee
      - i. Meeting next week – focus has been on parking and heritage trees

The meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.