

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: John Chadwick, Jeff Chambers, Michael DePalma, Lisa Stengle, Sarah Johnson, Robert Ruiz, Mike Freda, Heather Carkuff Joson, Rosa Cheney, Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, John (Chair) Giambalvo, David Goodman, Charles Goyette, Cynthia Hilton, Sally Hoekstra, Chandra Krohl, Steven Leutner, Colleen (Vice Chair) Pickford, Adam Rasmussen, Stacy Snyder, Greg Lloyd, Dede Curteman (BAC Liaison)

1. Minutes for December 14, 2020 were approved.

2. Liaison Updates:

Dede Curteman, BAC: No update.

Chip Goyette, Teaching & Learning: Meeting postponed until Jan 19th.

Adam Rasmussen, ACTC(look up): Meeting postponed until January 14th.

3. Feedback on ES Boundary Process: John Giambalvo and Lisa Stengle asked for general feedback about the recent ES boundary change process. Chip Goyette wondered if vulnerable populations more greatly affected by these boundary processes than less vulnerable populations. John Giambalvo offered that demographics/diversity seemed to be negatively affected in favor of proximity. Steve Leutner wishes there could have been better balancing of enrollment across schools. David Goodman noted that when walkability is increased, we can potentially decrease transportation costs. Heather Carkuff Joson commented on the potential for hub bussing to balance the additional transportation costs needed for programs. Colleen Pickford suggested that in the future, APS should set boundaries and expectations around what is on/off the table for engagement.

4. Fall Enrollment Projection Update: Presented by Robert Ruiz. This year's K-12 enrollment is down 4%. APS considers this an anomaly and will not be using it as a trend to inform projection. An outside consultant Dr. Richard Grip advised using 2019 enrollment as a base for projections and foregoing 2020 enrollment for this purpose. Even though APS is not using the 2020 enrollment numbers as a basis for projections, the possible impacts of the pandemic on enrollment are not being disregarded – they will be considered in weighted CTRs (Cohort Transition Rates). Historical birth rates will also be factored in, but not projected births.

5. Budget/Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP) Discussion: John Chadwick reported that budget reductions are being worked on by department. There is no word from the state of VA about additional funding for schools. Lisa Stengle reported on IPP work between Jonathon Turrisi and the principals. The priority right now is secondary programs. One example concerns the Ed Center opening – do any other programs need to move as a result? Staff is focusing on replication of certain programming at multiple schools and how they can streamline that. (Example – American Sign Language (ASL) at the high school level.) They are also discussing the possibility of continuing some virtual options into the future, primarily at the high school level.
6. Discussion on School Board Direction for the CIP: John Chadwick and Lisa Stengle presented. CIP direction was presented to the SB at Thursday's (Jan 7th) meeting. Some SB members were in favor of not having a CIP this year, but staff opposed this because of needs for HVAC updates. It is possible to redirect money previous allocated for Planning & Design to cover these HVAC updates, which would not require a bond referendum. Such a redirection would need to be approved by the SB, and could amount to up to \$32M. Stacy Snyder brought up work on the AFSAP; FAC members believe that even with potential questions about student projections, that we know we still have MS and HS seats shortage and that we shouldn't lose sight of that. It was asked whether MC/MM (Minor Construction/Major Maintenance) funding will be restored? John Chadwick anticipates a modest reduction in that budget.

There are seven high priority schools for HVAC remediation. Chip Goyette made the point that HVAC upgrades and clean air need to be a priority for our committee and for APS, perhaps over something like parking. He also suggested that if APS is faced with a choice of which priority schools to upgrade, that perhaps that decision on funding should be put to the County Board. John Giambalvo believes that we need to focus on other issues in addition to clean air. Other members believe clean air is the most pressing imminent issue, but that it should not obviate our other needs in the areas of facilities and equity.

The Heights: Jeff Chambers reported that the fire station could be removed as early as Summer 2021, and that stormwater issues need to be resolved. Including The Heights in the CIP is not just related to parking, but stormwater structures that need to be installed. This could be funded under reserves.