

## 2021-22 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:07pm.

1. Ten members were present: Chuck Rush (Chair), Erik Sullivan (Vice-Chair) Melanie Bowen (Past-Chair), Juan Gordon, Nellie Carr, Michael Lyons, Katherine Christensen, Bridget Obikoya, Jennifer Wheelock, and Jennifer Wagener.
  - APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson, APS Board Chair Monique O'Grady
2. The September minutes were approved.
3. Public comment (from Josh Folb, representing the AEA)
  - Uptick in staff members talking and asking about resignation and retirement
  - COLA, STEP, and market rate comparison are the three pillars of staff compensation
    - AEA has been advocating for tying COLA increases to an annual index, which has been around 1-2% in recent years
    - 5.9% is the current rate
  - Compensation issues raised from bus drivers – expect to see resignations when the tourism sector picks back up
4. School Board Update/FY 23 Budget Direction – Monique O'Grady
  - Highlights of expectations for Superintendent:
    - Mirrors school board priorities – ensuring student well-being; social/emotional and reading/math
    - Advance strategic plan goals – engaged workforce, operational excellence, partnerships
    - More focus on staff – staff believe they are falling behind; move towards collective bargaining
  - Operational efficiency: need systems in place to move quickly and be more nimble
  - Strategic changes: adjust enrollment projections, use of reserves, fee schedule changes
  - Needs based budgeting - going to take time to get to zero based budgeting
  - Budget needs transparency to better highlight major changes
  - 3-year forecasting
5. Budget 101 – Leslie Peterson
  - BAC was presented an overview of the APS budget components and details
    - School Operating Fund is the majority (80+%) – made up of Schools and Departments
    - Total Revenue \$702 Million – County transfer is majority (76%)
    - \$43.3M of one-time funds (6%) in last year's budget
    - Approximately 80% of overall budget spent on Salaries and Benefits
  - BAC reviewed the budget timeline and cycle

- Suggested that BAC members read the FY2022 Adopted Budget (located on Finance page on APS website) with focus on the Executive Summary
6. County Manager FY 23 Outlook – Leslie Peterson
    - Preliminary view of 2022/23 to the County Board indicated that Revenue was looking better than anticipated
    - Schools could expect to get 4-5% more in Revenue than last year (approximately \$20M)
  7. Policy Review – Erik Sullivan
    - Policies are reviewed on a rolling/dynamic basis
    - Policy review cycle allows for public comments at the beginning and during policy drafts
      - Feedback can be provided via the APS Engage webpage
      - Committees also have the opportunity to provide feedback
    - 8 Financial Management policies that were going to be reviewed in Jan/Feb – those have been pushed out to the spring/summer
  8. Way Ahead and Survey Results – Chuck Rush
    - BAC input on topics to discuss:
      - Top area: Choice schools budget impact
      - Next two: Equity in budgeting, Transportation Study
    - School Enrollment and Compensation study both important to the budget structurally
    - Will keep the form open for 24 more hours for additional voting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.