

## 2021-22 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:04pm.

1. Ten members were present: Chuck Rush (Chair), Erik Sullivan (Vice-Chair) Melanie Bowen (Past-Chair), Julie Davis, Nellie Carr, Michael Lyons, Katherine Christensen, Andy Greenwood, Bridget Obikoya, and Jennifer Wagener.
  - APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson, APS Board Chair Cristina Diaz-Torres
2. Public comment
  - Miranda Turner
    - Emphasize a major APS budget priority should be on learning loss
    - Math inventory scores showed 40% of students in middle school began the year in the “below basic” category (versus 26% at the beginning of last year and 25% before the pandemic)
      - Winter scores show 26% still fall into that category (vs 15% pre pandemic)
    - Similar trends in reading
    - Wider gap of achievement between white students and black/Hispanic
    - More pronounced needs at schools with a higher percentage of free/reduced lunch
    - APS should allocate more funds (suggested from close out) to tutoring and other learning loss intervention
  - Josh Folb (AEA)
    - Attended the tour of new Math curriculum/materials and is pleased to see how that will help teachers
3. The minutes will be approved in our next session.
4. Teaching & Learning Discussion - Bridgett Loft, APS Chief Academic Officer
  - Students are experiencing significant learning gaps
  - Applied for \$15.5 million in support from grants to address learning loss
    - Received about \$2 million; split over various time periods
      - Hire 6 math interventionists for the next 2 school years
      - Hire 2 Literacy coaches
      - Purchase evidence based instructional software resources and professional training
    - \$140,000 for tutoring starting this year – targeting students based on test scores
    - Using some courseware to identify areas of support across other subjects
    - Public dashboard available next week on learning loss
  - Summer school model has changed over the past years, which has not allowed APS to measure impact – will be working hard this year to measure
    - 2,400 students targeted for math and reading this year in K8
    - Offering incentives again this year to target enough staff

- Wish list:
    - 1.0 math coach at each ES
    - Math coach at each HS
    - Full resource adoption in math and literacy
    - Literacy coaches at each ES
5. School Board Update – Cristina Diaz-Torres
- Encouragement to watch last night’s work session on learning loss and enrollment projections
  - Revenue amount from the state is still uncertain
  - Trade off between the use of reserves and long-term sustainability an ongoing discussion
6. Budget Discussion and Budget Direction Review
- Student well-being and academic progress
    - Making progress in the “Identifying” and “Reporting” areas
    - Underinvesting in the area of “Addressing” student needs
    - Any additional funding should be put in the area of learning loss
    - Re-think how resources being added are being deployed – allocate them smarter based on where the needs are most (test scores, summer school eligibility, etc.)
    - Differentiate between one-time learning loss (pandemic-related) and the long-term impact of additional resources
  - Equity
    - Equitable outcomes (where the greatest need is) should be transparent in all decisions
    - Natural tension between planning factors (applicable to all equally) and need for additional support/resources beyond that based on need (not equal to everyone)
  - High-quality, talented workforce
    - Overdue for investment
    - Concern about sustainability – do we have the right staffing structure?
    - How does future compensation stay competitive in a county that is expensive to live in and where APS doesn’t control the Revenue/tax base?
    - What data does APS have (or will have going forward) to support teacher loss/retention based on compensation?
  - Improve Operational Efficiency
    - No comments
  - Reserve usage
    - Support use of reserves but tough trade-off with year-over-year sustainability
7. April 5 Work Session with School Board – Chuck Rush
- Meet on March 30 to review presentation (7-8pm) - confine presentation to 20 minutes
  - Solicit direct feedback from members in advance

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.