

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS (FAC)

MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2022 ♡ 6:30 PM

Barcroft Elementary School - Library

In Attendance: Heather Carkuff Josen, Jeff Chambers, Rosa Cheney (Chair), Michael DePalma, Mike Freda, John Giambalvo, David Goodman, Renee Harber, Cynthia Hilton, Sally Hoekstra, Rebecca Hunter (Vice-Chair), Lois Koontz, Steven Leutner, Greg Lloyd, Adam Rasmussen, Stacy Snyder, Lisa Stengle, Alistair Watson, James “Vell” Rives and Jessica Haney.

1. Meeting Minutes: December 2021 and January 2022 meeting minutes approved.
2. Introduction: Renee Harber introduced as new Assistant Superintendent. Rebecca Hunter introduced as new FAC Vice Chair.
3. Planning Resources and Site Studies Page: Ms. Koontz presented and requested feedback on website with publicly available resources showing existing site studies for APS facilities, including different categories for potential site issues, opportunities and constraints. Feedback included organizing documents and navigation with map (story map via GIS).
<https://www.apsva.us/engage/planning-resources-page/>
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4. Liaison Reports:

ACTC, SEPTA, CCPTA, ACTL: No update.

ASEAC: Submitted letter on Virtual Learning Program with recommendation to keep it. May outsource the program since not efficient use of resources. Only 400 students are participating.

Aquatics: APS and DPR (contractor) responded with air quality for Long Bridge – they follow ASHRAE, with 3 air exchanges per hour, and MERV 13 filtering.

JFAC: "Missing Middle" – looking at other jurisdictions that did "Missing Middle" studies to see if they addressed schools. Montgomery County Maryland has requirements for new construction/development to address if there is school capacity.

SHAB: No liaison.

Career Center BLPC: Three virtual meetings planned to develop concept design for site and building. Feedback on "homework" needed from FAC for each meeting. Next meeting will focus on site use and transportation. Also, County has announced purchase of site on Columbia Pike which will eventually house Columbia Pike library.

5. Renovations Subcommittee Update:

Progress on Long-Range Renovations plan presented. Staff is trying to get Dr. Ottley to help focus on equity. Staff indicated they do have a PIP, PTA funding (possible partnerships), and especially Long-Range Renovations Plan:

6. SHAB/FAC Air Quality Policy Letter:

Ms. Cheney presented SHAB's draft letter that SHAB had proposed for joint policy-recommendation by SHAB and FAC regarding indoor air quality. Ms. Cheney believes that the letter, as drafted, contains very detailed criteria that 1) focuses on short-term COVID/pandemic concerns rather than long-term improvements, and 2) does not take consideration of the whole gambit of issues that FAC focuses on. Ms. Cheney reported that SHAB is interested in pursuing a policy recommendation before the end of the school year and was fine with FAC taking the lead on what FAC was comfortable recommending and that the SHAB data could be used as supporting information rather than criteria.

Ms. Cheney asked for comments from FAC regarding whether the FAC would want to make a formal policy recommendation or whether FAC would want to address these types of recommendations as part of the Long-Range Renovations Plan, and a letter stating our recommendations for which of the criteria would be highest priority (which might be indoor air quality, student health, equity, etc).

APS staff stated that they do comply with ASHRAE standards, and that their policies include incorporating strategies from the WELL certification program (focused on occupant wellness) in addition to LEED certification requirements.

7. Swing Space Discussion:

Topic was raised regarding swing space and how it could be achieved, with the goal being that the renovations that would take place to schools could be done more quickly and more cost-effectively if the buildings were empty during construction. Discussion centered around timing, cost, and staff and students, including:

- New construction of a swing space.
- Using an existing building that is under capacity.
- Boundary changes to move students out of a building that would be renovated.
- Disruption to the affected students themselves.
- Intentional plan for swing space and renovations, to be formalized with policy/PIP.
- Eventual decommissioning of unused or unneeded buildings, also to be formalized with policy/PIP.

Concern was related to budget and whether Board and APS are looking at these issues holistically. If a new swing space building is created, then does that take resources away from the future renovation work, taking away limited funding as well as pushing out the actual renovation work too far into the future. The Career Center project was raised as an example of a large allocation of funding that will have a big impact on future availability of funds for renovation work.