

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS  
MEETING AGENDA (FAC)**

**February 10, 2025**

**Tour Began 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Began 6:30 p.m.**

**The Heights** (Eunice Kennedy Shriver and H-B Woodlawn Secondary Programs)

**Attendance:** Cynthia Hilton (chair), Sally Hoekstra, Jessica Hubley, Stephaney Martin, Adam Rasmussen, Anthony Rush, Tony Weaver (vice), Michael Bruno (secretary), Mary Kadera (board), Jeff Chambers (APS), Cathy Lin (APS), Renee Harber (APS), Michael DePalma (APS), Chen Ling (public speaker)

**1. Call to Order**

- Introduction of New Member – Stephaney Martin
- Recognition of and appreciation for Mary Kadera's support to FAC.
- Approval of January Minutes **FAC Action – unanimously approved**

**2. Chair's Update**

- Site Visit Debrief – The Heights; FAC toured parking garage, frisbee field. The project had yet to be completed. The school building itself was not toured.
- F&O Project Summary – [Facilities & Operations Project Summary SY2024-25 \(Updated 02/10/2025\)](#). The project summary was updated to include months in the year when projects would be available for consideration by the FAC.
- Chair Hilton noted that an update of the OCT 2024 presentation by Jonathan Turrisi on the implementation of APS' 24-30 Strategic Plan that was scheduled for this meeting was rescheduled for the MAR meeting when semi-annual updates of progress would be available. Meanwhile, members could view an [F&O update to School Board on Jan. 16](#).
- Communications Filed since the last meeting:
  - Summary of recommendations to the Advisory Committee Working Group
  - Policy E-3.31 Safety and Security
  - Policy I-10.32 Student Services
- Tony Weaver reported that notices of upcoming policy revisions would be distributed soon.

**3. FAC Liaison Updates**

- BAC (Hilton. Liaison report provided later over email to FAC members as BAC meeting was Feb. 12, after FAC's.) – Information from a [Jan. 22 draft report by consultancy Baker Tilly](#) on recommendations for FY 26 budget savings with implications for F&O was shared. The FY 26 APS proposed budget will be jointly released for the first time with the Superintendent's proposed budget on MAR 13<sup>th</sup>. FAC has been concerned about deferred maintenance and cut to the MC/MM program last fiscal year. APS' Asst. Superintendent for Finance and Management Services reported at BAC meeting that the proposed FY 26 budget would restore the FY25 \$1.5M cut and recommend that the program grow by an additional \$1.8M. Separately, a BAC member proposed future cost cutting by not following through on legacy Career Center update and eliminating MPSA. FAC has opposed the idea previously due to questionable cost savings, as well as degree of disruption to capacity demands and supply. Board member Kadera noted that no policy exists for moving choice schools.
- JFAC (Weaver) – JFAC looking at examples of community health centers

collocated at local schools. As part of this initiative, a JFAC member presented a proposal for APS/ACG use of the North Quincy St. Site, to include performing arts facility for high school and parkland. (It was acknowledged that there is no funding for this type of initiative at this time.) JFAC also discussed procedures and technology supporting public booking of APS facilities.

4. **School Board Liaison Update** – (Kadera) Program capacity report, enrollment, other reports coming April-June. Updated, reduced budget deficit to be revealed in joint board-superintendent proposal to public March 13. The proposal could include a slower rollout to planning factor updates. No cuts to MC/MM expected. Central office staff changes are expected, but relatively minimal impacts this year to F&O accounts. Separately, there will be an update to visitor-screening technology and procedures for admission to APS facilities.
5. **Implementation of Prevailing Wage Resolution** – (Chambers) FAC's SY 24-25 workplan included monitoring implementation of the Board's Prevailing Wage Resolution. Last year, staff had posited that the Policy would increase construction costs and that attendant paperwork burdens would cause small businesses to drop out of bidding for projects covered by the Policy. Staff reported that cost increases were de minimis, although other factors also helped to keep project costs down. However, small businesses have not bid on the projects covered.
6. **Relocatable Ordinance** – (DePalma and Chambers) Staff clarified and updated information provided at FAC's JAN 2025 meeting on 2019 AGC policy on the permitting of relocatables. Importantly, APS participated in the deliberations to develop the policy which was intended to streamline the effort to get ACG to allow administrative approval for these temporary structures. Siting and removal of relocatables have been inconsistent. The ACG policy now allows for a streamlined administrative approval for up to six years. APS can apply to extend the use of a given relocatable beyond six years but must use the regular use permit process. If a relocatable is used for five years or longer, it is more cost beneficial to buy than to lease a relocatable. Results of an APS relocatables optimization study update is expected in May, to include recommendations for implementing the 2019 ACG policy with an aim to codify a more transparent methodology to both install and remove relocatables. FAC will be invited to comment on recommendations. Meanwhile, temporary trailers used for contractors are generally included in use permits for a construction project as a whole. These use permits are not those covered by the new temporary structure permit policy.
7. **Enrollment Projections Report** – (Lin/DePalma – [Fall 2024 10-Year, K-12 Enrollment Projections Presentation](#).) Program capacity report coming out in April. SY24-25 saw 1.9% prek-12 student population growth from year before, and SY25-26 is projected to see 1.6%. Largest Arlington birth rate was in 2016. The biggest growth currently is in middle schools. In the next five years, elementary school enrollment is expected to decline overall. However, enrollment decline is not universal across the County. Decline is expected in North Arlington, while growth is expected in South Arlington, which generally remains closer to capacity or overcapacity. In the following five years, middle schools start to decline under same student geographic shift. High schools would be expected to follow the same patterns. Demographic shift is addressed in part by option programs, e.g., Grace Hopper Center could help absorb both coming student bulge through high schools and shift toward South Arlington. FAC asked to see transfer data for options schools to see if they can further address capacity needs. [APS transfer data was provided later over email to FAC members and a FAC member is analyzing it.]
8. **Public Comment**

- Speaker Guidance: [Guidelines for Public Comment During School Board Meetings and Public Hearings](#).
- There were two public speakers: Chen Ling reported his anecdotal experience that APS families would rather be at an overcrowded local school with relocatables than asked to send their children to a less-crowded school further away. Cynthia Hilton, representing a coalition of about 100 Arlington swimmers, expressed opposition to the characterization of the Baker-Tilly consultants that APS's elementary swim program was a "nice to have" amenity that should be considered for cutting. The APS aquatics facilities are operated and maintained by F&O. Drowning in the second cause of preventable death in students 5-18. The ES "swim" program teaches water safety (drown-proofing) to the most vulnerable of this age group, and especially to those students whose socioeconomic demographic makes it unlikely that they would have private sector options to obtain this type of life-saving instruction. FAC was also reminded that pools are not inexpensive to run and that they must be operational 24/7. APS collects fees from public (non-school) use of these facilities to cover their use. When maintenance issues force pools to close, revenue is lost. When there is no parking available in designed pool parking areas, revenue is lost. F&O was asked to do a better job to prioritize pool maintenance and enforce pool parking areas for violators.

#### **9. New Business**

- Upcoming Events / Deadlines
- Next Meeting Virtual on MAR 17 6:30 to 8:30 – Agenda: Semi-annual implementation of the FY 24-30 APS Strategic Plan, and finalizing FY 26 Budget Recommendations

#### **10. Adjourn 8:27pm**

#### **Additional Information:**

School Board Meeting –Thursday Feb 13th @ 7:00 P.M  
Board Room – Syphax 2nd Floor

#### MONITORING ITEMS:

- FY 2025 Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report

SCHOOL BOARD AND COUNTY BOARD JOINT BUDGET WORK SESSION – WEDNESDAY MARCH 12TH 1:00 P.M.  
COUNTY BOARD ROOM – BOZMAN GOVERNMENT CENTER 3RD FLOOR, ROOM 307

#### **Next Meeting:**

March 17, 2025 – Virtual via Teams