

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

May 12, 2025

Tour Began 6 p.m.

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Washington-Liberty Aquatic Center, Planetarium & Annex

Attendance: Cynthia Hilton (chair), Tony Weaver (vice), Michael Bruno (secretary), Kateri Garcia, Sally Hoekstra, Jessica Hubley, Stephanie Martin, Adam Rasmussen, Chuck Rush, Matthew Thoman, Mary Kadera (APS board); and from APS: Michael DePalma, Jeff Chambers, Renee Harber, and Cathy Lin

1. Call to Order

- Approval of April Minutes **FAC Action - unanimously approved**

2. Chair's Update

- Site Visit Debrief – W-L Aquatic Center, Planetarium & Annex
 - W-L pool now an aging facility, no longer new. APS pools remain a key resource for providing water safety skills to APS students; significant number of the 9th grade population still lack sufficient skills. The proportion of APS students helped via 4th grade post-instruction screening is not documented, acknowledging that the tested 4th-grade students may not be the same entering the 9th grade. APS and county do not bulk-buy chlorine, or other supplies; so could be a cost-savings opportunity.
- The Board has a "tracker" database system for advisory committee recommendations to record outcomes. The last FAC recommendations added to the database were made in June 2023; the last staff responses to the recommendations were recorded in June 2019. Chair Hilton has requested that the tracker be updated with FAC's recommendations since 2023. Should occur over summer. The Chair was not given permission to share the tracker link directly with members.
- Working group on revising advisory committees is expected to finalize proposes SY25-26. This was once targeted for SY2025. Working group has been leaning toward aligning advisory councils (e.g., FAC) responsibilities to the APS strategic plan. For its part, FAC has cautioned whether that is best use of task forces.
- So-called deep dive studies of five schools expected to be available in SY 25-26.

3. Communications Filed (Weaver)

- Upcoming policy revisions – for review by May 16:
 - [Policy F-1 – Capital Improvement Plan](#)
 - [Policy F-5.7 Capital and Maintenance Program](#)
- Two other policies open for FAC comments until June 4:
 - B-3.6.37 [Electronic Participation in School Board Advisory Committee Meetings](#)
 - B-4.4 [Electronic Participation in Meetings by Individual Members](#)

4. FAC Liaison Updates

- **BAC (Hilton/Thoman)** – APS (and the County, respectively) now will withdraw from - and continue to invest into, albeit at a lower level – the "Other Post-Employment Benefits" (OPEB) fund set up in fiscal 2010. The trust fund was set up in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis under then-new best practices to transparently account for retiree benefits. To date, only annual investments

had been made (e.g., \$2.6M in fiscal 2025) but no withdrawals were ever made, so funds have grown healthily since then (to ~\$120M). Going forward, prior-year costs will be recovered from the fund while investments will be more measured. The net positive effect to the APS annual budget is \$5-6M annually. BAC members continue to question the value of option school solely on transportation-cost concerns. FAC liaison advised that option schools were key to voluntary adjustments to overcrowding at neighborhood schools and preferable to boundary changes. BAC members questioned the cost of the Integration Station program at the Children's School and HB Woodlawn's lottery. Concern about MPSA costs were raised, but committee members were unaware that MPSA charges tuition. BAC members also appeared not to understand the degraded conditions in the Patrick Henry Building given the long-approved plan to raise the building.

5. **School Board Liaison Update (Kadera)** – Reiterated that OPEB action meets general accounting standards and is not unusual. The fund was essentially forgotten, including for making appropriate withdrawals. The new action, along with other budget actions such as cuts to Syphax staff, have helped close the budget gap this coming school year (once seen \$34M). Next annual budget will still see a need to make cuts but not as bad as seen originally for this year (e.g., \$2-3M). However, one watch item will be increased costs due to U.S. tariffs that can increase APS costs. Separately, a couple of lessons learned from this year's budget process included mixed results from the first-ever joint superintendent/Board budget proposal experiment. The joint proposal helped both sides present a unified proposal to the public at the same time, but it took a significant amount of work – especially by Board – that may not have gained much more in the end. Another lesson learned came via Integration Station. This was the second or third proposal in recent years to close or move a school (e.g., Nottingham ES) and ultimately none were acted upon. One repeated challenge that has surfaced has been to better understand the costs of the way things are, as well as changing them. For instance, Integration Station pays a facility rental fee at a private facility that was mandated when APS moved the program out of the former Reed School, an APS facility it already owned. Also, while the concept of spreading Integration Station students to other schools may work in theory, it takes a lot more study to enact without harming either the Integration or recipient school populations.
6. **Relocatable Implementation Process (DePalma/Lin)**
 - [Facilities Optimization Study SY 2020-21](#)
 - A new-hire was made to support this effort. APS staff hopes to wrap up new report in May and brief to senior APS leadership in early June. FAC may review at June 9 meeting.
7. **Program Capacity Review (Lin)** – A preliminary report has been in hands of respective principals for feedback, and they are generally “happy” with findings. Aiming to deliver to senior APS leadership in June. FAC may review June 9.
8. **FAC 2024-25 End-of-the-Year Report FAC Action – rough draft endorsed unanimously**
 - Chair Hilton has compiled rough draft of end-of-the-year report. Friendly language edits were suggested by Garcia. Updated version presented over email to FAC members on May 16 for review. Final version to be presented at May 29 – Work Session on Advisory Committee End-of-the-Year Reports with ACTL, SAB, BAC, and FAC at 6:30 p.m.
9. **Elections for Chair, Vice and Secretary for 2025-26 FAC Action - unanimous**
 - Tony Weaver endorsed by FAC members to be next FAC chairman
 - Matthew Thoman endorsed by FAC members to be vice chair

- Michael Bruno endorsed by FAC members to be recording secretary
- 10. New Business**
- Departing FAC members Sally Hoekstra, Adam Rasmussen thanked and honored for their service.
 - Next Meeting June 9, 2025, virtual TBD
 - Upcoming Events / Deadlines (see below)

11. Adjournment 8:10 p.m.

Additional Information:

School Board Meeting –Thursday May 15th @ 7:00 P.M Board Room
– Syphax 2nd Floor

ACTION ITEM: Adoption of the Final FY2026 Budget - May:

School Board Work Session –Thursday May 29th 6:30 P.M Board Room – Syphax 2nd Floor & Live Streamed
Advisory Committees End-of-the-Year Reports Work Session – ACTL, BAC, and FAC

School Board Work Session –Tuesday June 10th 6:30 P.M Board Room – Syphax 2nd Floor & Live Streamed
Work Session with the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC) and the Joint Facilities
Advisory Commission (JFAC)