

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

September 15, 2025

Facilities & Operations - Transport - Trades Center

Trades Center Tour Began 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Began 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Tony Weaver (chair), Matthew Thoman (vice chair), Michael Bruno (secretary), Kateri Garcia, Cynthia Hilton, Stephaney Martin, Robert Aleksandr Miller, Amy Newman, Mohsin Raza Syed, Tony Striner, Bethany Zecher Sutton (APS School Board), Cathy Lin (APS), Jeff Chambers (APS), Renee Harber (APS), Michael DePalma (APS), David Novy (public)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Approval of May Minutes **FAC Action: unanimously approved**

2. Public Comment

- **Speaker Guidance:** [Guidelines for Public Comment During School Board Meetings and Public Hearings](#)
- David Novy introduced himself. The School Board may consider his nomination to become a FAC member.

3. Chair's Update

- Weaver welcomed new and returning FAC members, as well as APS staff and new board liaison. He stated a goal for the FAC to provide high-quality, effective recommendations to the school board ahead of the 2027-36 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- FAC Organization **FAC Action – liason assignments agreed.**
 - i. Officers: Per prior board action, Weaver new chair, Thoman new vice chair and Bruno remains secretary.
 - ii. FAC Liaison Assignments agreed to as follows: BAC-Hilton (primary), Martin (secondary); ACTL-Syed, Newman; JFAC-Newman, Thoman.
- Site Visit Debrief: Trades warehouse being effectively reorganized. Renovated facilities for transportation staff (e.g., meetings rooms, kitchen area) reflect a significant improvement from prior conditions. While early to conclude, updated facilities may already help with bus staff retention as 132 drivers started this school year versus 119 prior year. Electric bus infrastructure preparation continues apace (see below).

4. Onboarding

- FAC Policies / PIP - reviewed
- Pre-CIP / CIP Process – committee reminded this is a CIP year for board.

5. Begin Prioritizing Internal FAC Work Plan for School Year 2025-26

- Projects – five feasibility studies, i.e., “deep dives,” were spotlighted as FAC’s near-term focus. These are the APS “deep dives” on Swanson Middle School (MS), TJ MS, and Barrett, Randolph and Taylor elementary schools (ES) expected out imminently.
- Other near-term projects include monitoring the Trade Center Optimization/Bus Electrification Study; 2024-25 [Relocatable Inventory Management study](#); and Grace Hopper campus with Arlington Tech HS move and Arlington Career Center renovation for MPSA.

- FAC draft work plan and individual member research assignments are on FAC's internal Google drive.
 - Timeline – FAC leadership has outlined a draft plan for the whole year and the FAC agreed to multiple task items through October.
6. Policies for Public Comment / Supplemental Advisory Memo
- Policy E-5.1.2 [School Start Times](#)
 - Policy J-5.3.32 [Administrative Placements](#)
 - Policy J-13 [Physical Interventions](#)
7. New Business
- Strategic Plan Facility Focus
 - i. As Identified in Work Plan
 - ii. APS reboundary process: On Aug. 21, [APS staff recommended no ES or MS boundary redrawing at this time](#), and Board concurred.
 - iii. APS [Program Capacity Studies](#) were completed since last FAC meeting and published. School program capacities can differ significantly from building design capacities. Results helped inform decision not to reboundary at this time.
 - iv. FAC noted June 10 APS [Work Session Presentation](#) to Board on Pre-CIP Preparations for the 2027-36 CIP.
 - v. APS and Arlington County bonds update: bonds authorized by voters on November 2024 ballot have not yet been sold as finance officials are watching for interest rates to decline. Bonds could be sold as late as May 2026. But projects authorized under the bonds are not being delayed as funds exist to begin work and bond proceeds (once sold) will be used to backfill those funds.
 - vi. Facilities [Long-range Plan Data and Reporting](#) updated May 23.
 - Upcoming Events – see School Board meetings below.
8. Adjournment: 8:31 p.m.

Additional Information:

School Board Meeting –Thursday September 18th @ 7:00 P.M.
Board Room – Syphax 2nd Floor

ACTION ITEMS:

- [FY 2025-26 Internal Audit Work Plan](#)

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- [School Board FY 2027 Budget Direction](#)

School Board Work Session –Tuesday September 30th 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Board Room – Syphax 2nd Floor & Live Streamed

[Work Session #1: Planning Factors – Phase 2 \(9-10:30 A.M.\)](#), [Work Session #2: HR Audit Report \(10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.\)](#), [Work Session #3: Feasibility Studies \(1-2:30 P.M.\)](#) & [Work Session #4: FY 2027-36 CIP Direction \(2:45-4:15 P.M.\)](#)

School Board Meeting –Thursday October 3rd @ 7:00 P.M.

- Agenda could include proposed Board guidance for CIP drafting this school year.

Next FAC Meeting:

October 13, 2025 – Barrett Elementary School.