

**2025-26 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, October 15, 2025**  
**Syphax Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Meeting started at 7pm.

**Attendees present:** Sianni Cabello (Chair), Melanie Bowen (Vice Chair), Jen Cannon, Bob Ramsey, Chen Ling, Cynthia Hilton (FAC rep), Peter Strack, Marty Swaim, Jonathan Hui, Nellie Carr

County Board liaison: Bethany Zecher Sutton

APS Superintendent's Cabinet, Business Officer: Andy Hawkins

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Comment from County Board liaison:

- Based on adopted CIP, debt service will increase up to 2-3 million annually, before it eventually starts to level off.
- Looking at feasibility studies and major infrastructure studies.

Comment from Business Officer:

- When looking at infrastructure requirements, if building requires significant improvements, considering whether use of other buildings with available space would make more sense.
- Staff is recommending renovation of Montessori (~500 children)
- Projects now cost more than they did in previous years.

General discussion

- Question about deferring items previously promised to neighborhood schools; clarification that funding for career center is different money than funding for school renovations.
- Regarding COLA (as part of compensation), Board is unlikely to differentiate between P-scale and teaching scale employees.

School Board Advisory Committee Working Group discussion led by Lida and Jennie

- Described proposal to restructure Budget Advisory Committee to instead have single budget representatives in each of the other committees.
- Discussed interest in value of collaboration with other groups, but BAC members emphasized importance of retaining emphasis and focus on budget

- Questions about whether there is sufficient interest to staff the proposed new structure
- Increased feedback from the Board would improve BAC ability to add value