

City Council School Board Subcommittee Meeting Notes

September 19, 2022

Attending:

Justin Wilson, Mayor
 Amy Jackson, Vice Mayor (Alternate)
 Meagan Alderton, Chair, Alexandria City School Board
 Jacinta Greene, Vice Chair, Alexandria City School Board

James Parajon, City Manager
 Emily A. Baker, Deputy City Manager
 Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager (Virtual)
 Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Interim Superintendent

Kate Garvey, DCHS
 Courtney Ballantine, APD
 Jack Browand, RPCA (Virtual)
 Dr. Alicia Hart, ACPS (virtual)
 Joanna Anderson, City Attorney
 Kendel Taylor, CMO/FIN
 Julie Crawford, ACPS
 Dominic Turner, ACPS
 Sophie Huemer, ACPS

Erica Gulick, ACPS (Virtual)
 Kurt Huffman, ACPS (Virtual)
 Yon Lambert, CMO/TES
 Sermaine McLean, CMO
 Dr. David Rose, Health Dept. (virtual)
 Kennetra Wood, ACPS
 Dr. Wendy Gonzalez, ACPS
 Morgan Routt, OMB
 James Spengler, RPCA

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Discussion/Follow Up/Action	Responsible Party(ies)
I.	COVID-19 Update	<p>Community transmission is still high (116 new cases over the past 7 days), but the impact is not enormous or greatly serious. We are currently in a good place as far as impact, but we are still seeing a significant amount of transmission.</p> <p>Over the summer the primary vaccines doses have been available to the community. Over 8500 children under the age of 12 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. AHD administered about 6500 of those doses.</p> <p>AHD will provide an update as needed going forward.</p>	Dr. David Rose
II.	Approval of Meeting Summary 6.27.2022	Approved.	

III.	Major Projects:		
	a. High School Project	<p>Construction is well underway. ACPS is working on the foundation to grade elements (support of excavation has been installed and trees have been removed), utility work. Regularly coordinating with neighbors regarding parking and truck routes. Staff are coordinating on the MOU and should be bringing that forward to leadership soon.</p> <p><i>Vice Mayor Jackson inquired about the installation of the pool and the vibrations that people felt in the neighborhood behind the constructions site.</i></p> <p>ACPS worked with the neighbors when they were driving piles for the foundation, which caused vibrations in the area. The excavation of the pool has not started, and the process for installation is different and should not cause any inconvenience or impact on the neighbors.</p> <p><i>Vice Chair Greene requested an update on the lights since the field will be moved to the other side of the school.</i></p> <p>During design staff had discussions about taking down the lighted field, moving it to the other side and installing a new lighted field. Ms. Gulick feels that the neighbors are well aware of the change and these items were included in the construction SUP.</p>	Erica Gulick
	b. Facility Assessment/CIP Planning	City and ACPS staff have been working on preparing for the upcoming meeting on October 12 to discuss Joint Facilities Master Plan.	Karl Moritz Dr. Alicia Hart
	c. Joint Capital Planning and Implementation	<i>See above (combined update)</i>	

	<p>d. Early Childhood Education</p>	<p>Kids First Years (KFY), which is a coalition among ACPS, early childcare providers, and DCHS, The Morris Foundation and other key partners. KFY’s foundational document is called the “Common Agenda” and most of the areas that we address are out of the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KFY has become a non-profit organization in order to do fundraising and employ staff that was not possible before. • ARPA funds were used to try to support providers to both give bonuses and do other things to attract and retain staff, but it is still challenging. • The under-enrollment is due to families opting out due to financial issues. Staff is looking at ways to give more incentives, opportunities that are no-cost, help people feel more comfortable in these settings again, and address their financial issues. • 63 programs participated in the Virginia Quality in FY 2022 and we did see advancement of the quality rating of 18 of those programs. • Coordinated enrollment has developed and evolved in order to improve access to families with focus on Pre-K and VPI programs, but also trying to expand for others to be involved. Thus, creating a one-stop shop which would allow referrals to be made to other programs if one is full. • Continuing family connections and events, which include quarterly baby showers, family fun day, and other things where our partners come out and being available for families to see these are the resources we have. <p>Staff will provide the CCSB with data on kindergartner enrollment for those who had a Pre-K experience and greater analysis of what is happening with the under-enrollment.</p>	<p>Kate Garvey</p>
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	<p>i. Out of School Time</p>	<p>The program is enrolled, up and running this fall with the schools. We have 1,332 participants, there are 261 households on the waiting list. Our capacity constraint is due to staffing. This year as in previous years, provided an early registration session for free/reduced lunch households in the middle of the summer to ensure that the slots went to the households with the greatest challenges. We still have the impact on some of our sites, like Mt. Vernon and Barrett, where enrolled was filled in the first 5 to 10 minutes of registration day.</p> <p>Staff has been talking with parents at different school sites to determine if there is a better way to do the registration process. Based on the feedback, there has not been a consensus. Mr. Spengler is leaning towards some type of lottery process at certain sites.</p> <p>Link Club will start at additional sites this year, once they are fully up and running, we are hopeful that children will be moved of the waitlist. The only concern will be staffing.</p> <p>City Council released \$200K from contingency funds for RPCA to create greater stability in staffing, such as permanent part-time positions (which includes pro-rated benefits).</p> <p>Dr. Kay-Wyatt informed the group that ACPS has a new Link Club manager and all sites are up and running with the exception of G.W. Middle School. Also, ACPS has been approved for 21st Century grant from VDOE.</p>	<p>James Spengler</p>
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		<p>discuss what we can do to keep the community safe. Through this, we are trying to get volunteer parents to come in and assist. We would have them go through the APD volunteer office to get trained and have background checks.</p> <p>In conversations with the former superintendent, one option was to shift this in terms of responsibility and funding to ACPS. Another option was to take a look at positions that the City is struggling to fill and possibly combine the positions.</p>	
IV.	Other Discussion Items		
	1. Update on McArthur	Construction is moving along. We have installed framing and continue to work on the exterior so that we can move to the interior. We are still on schedule and work to make sure everything is done according to plan and opening on time.	Erica Gulick
	2. EJI Pilgrimage	We have 30 students and 20 staff members that are going. The video media students will also attend to document and record.	Dr. Kay-Wyatt
	3. Governor's Policy on Transgender Student	A few moments ago all of the school communities received a joint letter from Dr. Kay-Wyatt and Chair Alderton to let them know where the schools stand for them to feel welcome.	Dr. Kay-Wyatt

Next meeting: Monday, October 17, 2022