

Budget Advisory Committee

November 6, 2018 7PM
Location: Charles Houston Rec Center

Agenda

Approval of Agenda – November 6, 2018 Erin, Chris

- Approval of Minutes – approved
- Staff Report - Community budget forum last month. Since the forum Supt leadership budget meeting have been going on. Staff in the budget office have made recommendations on presenting a balanced budget, next Monday to the Supt. Following Monday leadership will make final decisions prior to Thanksgiving. Budget book gets prepared then, Jan 10 Supt presents to the school board on his recommended budget. Capital improvement budget will be presenting to the school board Nov 8. Nov 13 work session, compensation study to be presented to the board and discussed. ACPS has a high floor and low ceiling. Erin asked if there is attrition at a certain time because of this low ceiling? No direct data supporting that but do see attrition for tenured staff. 12.5% is our average attrition, this year was higher than average (50 more than average). Addressing attrition in the 2020 budget through compensation. As follow up, what grade level and tenure of the attrition. Exist survey information - some is compensation. Other jurisdictions are giving higher COLA and step increases and Alexandria has not. ACPS is looking to add a COLA adj as well. Question on whether teachers transition into administration? Follow up. Build a teacher – paraprofessional program. Leadership program for asst principals. Staff meeting with city staff. This Saturday City Council retreat – getting budget guidance on city revenue. School enrollment projection to be updated next year. Just got actual Sept enrollment slightly lower than originally projected. Erin asked did comp study look at central office staff and competitiveness of those levels? Yes, and school board as well. Looking at student to staff ratios as well. WABE presentations for next time. Chris – was benefits included in the comp study? Total cost of benefits included in study. Results show that ACPS benefits are significantly better than other districts in our area. This is not seen as the more competitive way to get \$ to teachers. 94% approx. of health care costs paid by ACPS. Healthcare committee includes teachers and retired teachers which weighs in to cost increases etc. AON has compared ACPS to other districts which is informing the recommendations.
- Speakers on SOL requested – TBD. High School project – TBD.
- Student Representative Intro and Discussion
 - Defining role and responsibilities
 - Student liaison – see student involvement and feedback.
 - Student input through formal and informal – specific tops and questions to guide the discussion.
 - What can students do to contain costs/resources – brainstorming ideas
 - Impact on student learning environment – Capital improvement budget
 - Teacher input?
 - Fundraising for individual activities – student driven

- Foundation – what will it fund, how much has it raised

- Fund Balance Policy Discussion
 - 3% - 5% of operating budget needs to be kept in the fund balance
 - 2% can be used each year; replenished by budget under-runs
 - Staff would like to see policy revised to make the policy more of a safety net vs funds to use in spending
 - Funds should be used for one time or emergency situations
 - Recommendation from BAC to update the policy and what to revise it to. School Board would then ask staff to revise.
 - 3 – 5 years of change in fund balance and % of budget spend per year
 - Specific one time projects and how they were funded
 - Should we add a new contingency fund or make the fund balance more flexible
 - Use for one time costs only, not on-going operating expenses
 - In place for FY2021 budget cycle
 - What does City of Alexandria do?
 - Income from funds from city holding funds

- Benchmark Discussion – Tabled until Dec

Adjournment

Budget Advisory Committee Members

Janine Rubitski (Chair)

Erin Dahlin

Chuck Lunati

Lillian Vagnoni

Sukumar Rao

Chris Ricks

Michael Austin

Scott Laane

ACPS Staff Liaison

Dominic Turner, Acting CFO

School Board Liaison

Cindy Anderson

***Location:** Please call Janine Rubitski at 703-930-5706 if you have any trouble gaining access to the building.