

Budget Advisory Committee

March 10, 2020 - 7PM

Location: George Washington Middle School

MINUTES

Budget Advisory Committee Members

Erin Dahlin (Chair) (present)

Nancy Drane (Secretary) (present)

Sean McEnearney (not present)

Sukumar Rao (present)

Emily Swenson Brock (not present)

Lillian Vagnoni (not present)

ACPS Staff Liaison

Robert Easley, Budget Director (not present)

School Board Liaison

Ramey Gentry (present)

Approval of January and February Meeting Minutes

- Tabled to Next Meeting or do via e-mail due to lack of quorum

Staff Report

- The staff report was sent to BAC members in advance via e-mail, as Robert Easley was unable to attend. The report is attached to these minutes.
- Ms. Gentry reported that the process has been very positive. The City Manager has been clear that the proposed two cent tax increase will be targeted towards capital needs, both city and schools. He even projected the city will propose another two cent increase in two years and again by another two cents in four years. The joint meeting with City Council went well, but there are clearly community concerns around co-location. The hope is that there is some urgency around exploring and researching how co-location has been rolled out in other jurisdictions.
- There was some discussion around communications. At the last meeting, we suggested that ACPS have more consistent, readily available communication around budget-related inquiries. For example, there was parent advocacy around water fountains at GW, but the ACPS response was that those were already covered budget-wise. ACPS should be communicating that out to parents to both: (a) address the advocacy; and (b) show that ACPS is listening, etc.

ACPS Board Chair Meeting – Report Out

- Several weeks ago, the chairs of the various School Board committees. Health, TAG, Sports Hall of Fame, SPED, and Budget attended. SPED is a required committee, with the remainder being optional.
- There was an uniform experience of: (a) wanting more engagement with Board members; and (b) wondering about purpose and utility.
- Chair Cindy Anderson was very appreciative of our memorandum and efforts to identify and establish best practices.
- One issue for BAC - we need more members. We haven't had a quorum for the past two meetings.
- Next things we should turn our attention to is member recruitment. Erin said Susan Nielsen was also willing to help with member recruitment.
- Twice a year, vacancies will be featured on the ACPS Express.
- Including committee work in the announcements at the end of each Board meeting was another idea.
- This might be a good topic for a Board retreat meeting.
- Goal is to reach out through social networks and Erin will follow up with Susan about recruiting via ACPS Express.

Review and Discussion of School Board Feedback on BAC Scope of Work

- Last call to BAC members by March 31.
- We would like to circle back to the Board and share the feedback that we received in order to develop a plan for the rest of the year.
- Best Practices Memo is aimed for a June release.

Other Business

- Joint BFAAC Meeting and/or Memo forthcoming
- BFAAC Memo on City Budget forthcoming
- Big vision planning that BFAAC and BAC could work on together?

With that, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

BAC Staff Report

as of 3/10/2020

- 2/18/2020 – City Manager presented City of Alexandria (COA) Proposed Budget to City Council
 - 100% support of ACPS Combined Funds and Capital Improvement Program Budgets
 - https://www.alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=113736

- 2/20/2020 – City Manager presented COA Proposed Budget to School Board
 - Emphasized City commitment to ACPS funding needs
 - Proposed budget request 2 cent tax increase dedicated to City and Schools Capital Improvement Program budget
 - <http://eboard.acps.k12.va.us/attachments/884c5250-6eed-4b7c-b0c6-12a7e6f887e2.pdf>

- 3/4/2020 - Joint School Board/City Council meeting
 - School Board highlighted FY 2021 Budget Process including priority setting and use of data to drive priorities and funding decisions
 - Conducted a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) exercise amongst members
 - <http://eboard.acps.k12.va.us/attachments/8f8341df-7261-4239-a037-2b343d2eeb6b.pdf>

- Next Steps
 - April – City Council meetings, including Add/Deletes
 - 4/29/2020 – City Council Adoption of Tax Rate, Adoption of Budget
 - May – ACPS School Board meetings, including Add/Deletes (depending on City Adoption)
 - 06/04/2020 – ACPS Adoption of Final Budget