

Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

January 24, 2024

MINUTES

Budget Advisory Committee Members Present: Ryan Reyna; Nancy Drane; Bridget Shea Westfall; Bill Pfister; Abdulahi Abdalla; Alex Scioscia; Jenica Patterson

ACPS Staff Liaison Present: Robert Easley

School Board Liaison Present: Kelly Carmichael Booz, Board Member

6:37pm call to order. There were no public attendees.

8:30pm close

Public Comment

- No public comment

Approval of Prior Minutes

- Questions on grants – applying for grants for people to collaborate with us on; or those grants don't apply to us; most federal/state grants are by being sub grantee to a large nonprofit; building those relationships can bring in exponential funds – is there any efforts to partner as a sub?
 - Comment: did not discuss directly but ACPS is one of the few that has their own education fund (but don't need that to be a sub); Issue that was brought up as a barrier of ability to access grants.
 - Presentation to provide visibility of federal granting opportunities and what other districts are doing to get federal funding.
 - Follow up conversation with Greg Tardieu to build out partnerships.
- A motion to approve the November 29th 2023 minutes and approved by voice vote.

Chair Report

- Kelly and Ashely S.B. and Nancy had a community budget meeting (well done). School board had their public hearing on budget (15-18 people, representation from HS students; around step and COLA, and student perspective keeping on psychologist and social emotional support)
- Call with Dominic/Robert and scope of work on future – some of the information they were hoping to learn – Ryan will send around notes
- Not sure where we stand BFAC/BAC SOW; do not have a SB rep on BFAAC – use that as an opportunity to reconnect
 - Tentative date for 2/20 where Dominic will attend

School Board Report (Kelly)

- CIP meeting: \$20M cut to GM and \$40M cut to CK for their new buildings; city guidance looked at debt services and impact over 10 years
- Redistricting
 - Second meeting of the committee
 - 2026/2027 – give time and school board election in 2025; giving time for new board and vote for new lines will be scheduled in late 2025 (beginning of 2026);
 - Last time is 2015; good lessons learned
 - Policy driven
 - What are priorities (grandfather kids in; siblings; kids to finish out their time at that school); bus crises (decisions made in 2015 where we see long term impact now)
 - Do work on policy up front, then bring in the community (bring RFP to help vendor go through the redistricting); set the scope of work in what the committee and set class sizes, staffing, transportation can be tough and emotional;
 - Policy – class sizes, student placement, siblings; walkability
 - Class sizes – value small class sizes; go above and beyond – have to pay more money to have smaller class sizes
 - Timeline for the policy – initial subcommittee meeting and then work session with board in March
 - Steering committee (4 board members – Kelly, Jacinta Green, Chris Harris, Tammy Ignacio) rest are on Collection Bargaining Committee
 - Do we want to transition from hard capacity caps?
 - Clarity of public engagement for redistricting – when will this be? Committee folks will be this coming fall (selected vendor as selecting committee last time)
 - Likely one person per school and some others at large
 - Communications strategy now! Engage community where ESL and including voices of ALL people
- Kathy Butchart – lobbyist; she did a good overview of different policies in Richmon and some budget policies and impact on ACPS; JLARC study – how underfunded VA compared to other states (SOQ formula is not the best, and not taking into account ELL and S.E. students); LCI at 80%; challenge to support students
- Collective bargaining
 - Michelle, Megan A., Ashley, Abdel, Tim is the subcommittee
 - Posted the documents today; subcommittee is tomorrow
 - Feb 8th meeting – vote to go forward with collective bargaining resolution;
 - In October – education of Alexandria reached out to SB, where SB had 6 months to respond to collective bargaining request; 120 days is coming soon
 - Can read draft resolution that will be proposed (rules of engagement) that the board will vote for (Kelly to circulate link)
 - March 7 – full board
 - March 21 – course of action
 - Questions have gone in; responses coming in on Sunday ; add/deletes due Wednesday; Feb 7th SB add/delete work session #1

Staff Report (Robert)

- Call with staff to go over 108 budget questions so senior leadership team can review this Friday
- State revenue has become a big question based on the governor's proposed budget; what will be in the city budget? If we don't get revenue from the state, the recourse is going to the city; The numbers are looking at a \$2.6M gap (reduce from budget or ask city for this funding)
- Super Budget – push regarding market rate adjustment for cost of living increase for staff/teachers (\$2.4M increase of budget); select group of employees got higher than cost of living increase based on prior (for example: elementary principals got a step increase + 2.5%)
- Loss steps – FY15,13,21 – steps were frozen; call for steps to be restored, to do that will be \$MM (no solid number provided); trying to figure out what is the cost to make up the loss steps to the current staff/teachers
 - Super budget was already pushing (4% requested) with what the city manager provided (2-3%)
- Tool for educators – created a tool for teachers to where any individual teacher based on their scale (BA, MS, MS+30) here is your ACPS salary and based on the other jurisdictions, you will see their salary +/- what is the other areas are offering ; available to teachers soon; not available to public (but mentioned to public and demo'd) – could be FOIA'd; Robert will let us know if it will become public
- 2% mid-year increase - What is the match for city?
 - 80% local, 20% state; governor will propose a raise, but it will need to come from the locality to pay for it
 - When state requires/mandates/suggests that they are funding X amt, its on a local composite index; state runs through composite index and then the state finds out how much they actually will give to each district based on the formula they run through it
 - For example – KD para-professional

New Business

- n/a

Old Business

- Talk about the scope of work for different research areas (talking to other communities on revenue sharing agreements, others that have done collective bargaining, and ex. How does add delete work in other areas)
- Ryan has put together a series of questions as a template – Ryan will send via email to and discuss asynchronous
 - As soon as we get agreement on BFAAC piece, can start research immediately
 - Each one of us have one division that we can do outreach with a common set of questions to ask (set up a call, and bring back to group)
 - Revenue sharing agreements from 8 districts
 - What are ways to get to mutual agreement (ex. Committee, community involvement?)
 - Who's setting principals for revenue sharing
 - Specifics agreements of terms and conditions
 - Temp/permanent now? How is it working?

- Ryan will circulate a revenue sharing agreement to help generate other questions

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Recruitment

- n/a