

**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 29, 2023 – 6:30 TO 8:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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

**ACPS Staff Liaison Present:** Robert Easley

**School Board Liaison Present:** Kelly Carmichael Booz, Board Member

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The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. There were no public attendees.

**Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.
- Bill Pugh submitted comments via email regarding ACPS commitment to green building in its upcoming budget.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

- A motion to approve the October 2023 minutes was called for and approved by voice vote.

**Chair Report**

- Chair discussed proposed joint BAC-BFAAC scope of work with BFAAC School Board representative Kathy Stenzel. Kathy agreed that the proposed research would be beneficial for the elected leaders to have as they enter into a tighter budget season. She plans to take the proposal to BFAAC to get their sign off and then we will work together to plan out an appropriate timeline.
- ACPS CFO is slated to present Budget 101 to BFAAC at its February meeting. BFAAC has invited BAC to attend for that portion of the meeting and then stay after for an initial discussion about our proposed joint scope of work.

**School Board Report**

- Member Carmichael Booz shared Board updates regarding the Superintendent's proposed CIP budget, which includes a number of potential cuts and/or delays particular improvements
- Member Booz indicated that it is within the purview of the School Board to adopt a CIP budget higher than what the Superintendent recommends, and then it would be on the City to respond as to whether they can find the funds. If that happens, the City Manager could add any additional money when the City releases its CIP budget.
  - The City decides the total amount to allocate and then ACPS ultimately decides how to allocate funds among projects.

- There is a history of the Division asking for more money for CIP, but the City generally has not approved
- City requires all new buildings and significant renovations to meet the City's "net zero" green goals for the building to have occupancy, so it is not possible to remove those costs from the CIP
- Member Booz provided updates about the Special Election for School Board District A, to take place on Tuesday, January 9.

### **Staff Report**

- Robert provided a link to the Division's new Open Finance portal and walked BAC through the website. It provides detail about current year expenditures. Plan is to slowly roll out to the public after budget season concludes.
- Moving forward, the Division is going to explore whether/how to connect the data to student enrollment data and provide more narrative about the expenditures
- Any suggestions for improvement or additional detail should be sent to BAC Chair
- ACPS has begun process of putting together the Superintendent's Combined Funds proposal. It anticipates some reductions based on projections from the City.

### **New Business – Greg Tardieu, Manager of Grants and Partnerships**

- Greg joined ACPS in 2014 and has been responsible for growing grant funding and supporting educators access grants (through Donors Choose)
- ACPS uses a service that provides 60-70 grant opportunities weekly, inclusive of state and federal
- ACPS shares these opportunities with a group of nonprofits (~70) in the City as well
- ACPS applies for 40-50 grants annually and gets ~30 of those
- ACPS has focused on tracking Donors Choose investments
  - Partnered with the site to get a specific webpage for ACPS schools
  - Now have 2 ambassadors for helping other teachers put up requests
- ESSER money goes away in September 2024
  - ~\$19M left to spend
  - Tried not to hire too many people for grant funded positions
  - Will likely have to invest some of the Combined Funds dollars to replace certain things that started under ESSER (i.e., SEAL supports)
- ACPS does not track PTA teacher grants
- No education foundation at ACPS, unlike many other divisions across VA
- More information is available on the School and Community Relations webpage

### **Old Business 2023-24 Scope of Work**

- BAC reviewed the proposed scope of work and suggested an additional review of the budget calendar to see if any steps can be removed or if certain work sessions can be combined. Also, BAC noted that there was an issue this year with a joint CIP meeting between the Division and the City a day before the release of the Superintendent's CIP, which made the discussion less valuable than it likely would have been a day later.

- A motion to approve the BAC 2023-2024 Scope of Work was called for and approved by voice vote.

### **Recruitment**

- BAC Chair shared proposed language for a recruitment flyer and welcomed “plain language” edits before being shared with PTAC / FACE Center and translated by ACPS
- Please send edits to BAC Chair by end of January

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.