

City Council School Board Subcommittee Meeting Notes

September 18, 2023

Attending:

Justin Wilson, Mayor
 John T. Chapman, Councilman
 Michelle Rief, Chair, Alexandria City School Board
 Kelly Carmichael Booz, Vice Chair, Alexandria City School Board

Dr. Alicia Hart, ACPS (Virtual)
 Laura Durham, RPCA
 Yon Lambert, CMO
 Emily A. Baker, CMO
 Sermaine McLean, CMO
 Joanna Anderson, CAO
 Carmen Sanders, ACPS (Virtual)

Dana Wedeles, CMO
 Randy Little, RPCA
 Erika Gulick, ACPS (Virtual)
 James Spengler, RPCA
 Kate Garvey, DCHS (Virtual)
 Dominic Turner, ACPS (Virtual)

James F. Parajon, City Manager
 Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Discussion/Follow Up/Action	Responsible Party(ies)
I.	Approval of Meeting Summary 6.26.2023	Approved.	
II.	Major Projects:		
	a. High School Project	<p>The project is moving along nicely. The façade work is progressing, and interior work is ongoing. Virginia Dominion was onsite on Friday to install the switchgear. Over the next few months, the team will be moving from the trailers into the building and will be working on the exterior of the parking lot (side facing Bradlee Shopping Center). The project is still on schedule for opening on April 6, 2024.</p> <p>Programmatic Update on Minnie Howard will be given at the school board meeting on Thursday.</p>	Dr. Alicia Hart Erika Gulick
	b. Facility Assessment/CIP Planning	No update at this time. The next scheduled time to discuss the CIP is Wednesday, November 1 for the Joint Work Session.	

		high school student that is onboarding today. Hiring and recruitment will be continuous.	
	d. Budget Update	<p>ACPS continues to work on their CIP budget and is working with City staff. The teams are collaborating on how to move forward as ACPS prepares their proposed budget.</p> <p>ACPS anticipates receiving some additional state revenue. Waiting on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to provide some information to know the extent of that. The additional revenue will include a 2% pay raise (20% will be provided by the State and the remainder will be covered by the schools).</p>	Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt Dominic Turner
	e. Shared Operations	<p>We have scopes on three of them. The facilities conversation is tied to the conversation that will take place on November 1 (Joint Work Session with ACPS on CIP). The City and Schools have been sharing each other's joint recruitment efforts on social media.</p> <p>Youth employment is an upcoming agenda item.</p> <p>The City Schools Capital Council will discuss ACPS' leases at their next meeting and a spreadsheet will be shared with the committee.</p>	Dana Wedeles Emily Baker
	f. Amazon/VA Tech	ACPS is in ongoing conversations with Amazon. As for Computer Science Professional Development, 25 ACPS teachers had the opportunity to attend a weeklong training in July 2023 to learn about coding through the Scratch/Scratch Jr. application, they were also taught about culturally responsive	Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt Carmen Sanders

		<p>teaching. They also had a chance to tour the AWS Skill Center in Crystal City.</p> <p>The first computer science PD session was held in September, teachers continued learning about Scratch and preparing for computer science experiences in the classroom.</p> <p>In June 2023 six ACPS teachers participated in the Drone Technology PD at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus. The teachers supported 40 middle school students as they attended a weeklong Drone Camp, where they were able to build and learn to fly a drone. They completed their first requirement towards earning their drone pilot certification.</p>	
	g. Safety and Security	<p>No update at this time as there will be a full update from ACPS at the School Board this Thursday. Just to note, staff is monitoring attendance and truancy.</p> <p>Walkthroughs of Bradlee Shopping Center are ongoing, there was one earlier today. City and ACPS staff continue to work with the property owner, First Washington, to ensure safety in the area. Staff are currently looking at opening a satellite office in the shopping center.</p> <p>Crossing guard posts are staffed and have been in place since the beginning of the school year. Also, the speed cameras went live today. In the previous month, warning citations were issued.</p> <p>The newly created subcommittee is scheduled to have its first meeting on September 27.</p>	Yon Lambert Alicia Hart
	h. Collective Bargaining	ACPS will be sharing its plan for drafting a Collective Bargaining Resolution very soon.	

III.	Other Discussion Items		
	a. Discussion on BFAAC/BAC	<p>Would like to thank BFAAC and everyone on the School Board Budget Advisory Committee for putting together the memo. It was thoughtful and thorough.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we go about creating these shared visions? 2. How do we go about discussing these recommendations? 3. Should additional meetings be scheduled to assist with discussions on the CIP and timing? 	Chair Michelle Rief
	b. Staggered Term Elections	<p>The School Board is moving forward on conversations around staggered terms, how long the terms last, and the structure. They will continue to work on it throughout the fall, but will not push for Code changes for Election 2024. They want to ensure that the allow enough time for public engagement process. The aim is to get both the City and General Assembly onboard, the goal is to have this in place for 2025. Would like to do what is best for our students.</p> <p><i>Noted Concerns (addressed during ACPS Joint Work session with Libby Garvey (Arlington) and Peter Newman (Falls Church):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of institution knowledge, 2. Turnover 3. Pressure on staff to educate and get everyone up to speed. 	Chair Michelle Rief

Next meeting: Monday, October 23, 2023