

Date: January 21, 2021
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Michael Covington, Director of Accounting

THROUGH: Dominic Turner, Chief Financial Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

BACKGROUND:

The independent auditors from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) have reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as prepared by ACPS financial staff and completed the FY 2020 annual financial report on December 2, 2020. This was conducted in accordance with the standards applicable to financial audits, including Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the specific standards of audits for local jurisdictions issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The auditors' primary focus is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and to ensure that internal controls as defined by the audit standards are in place.

The CLA auditors are prepared to discuss this report at the School Board meeting scheduled for January 21, 2021.

SUMMARY:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP the City and Schools' external auditors, have audited the CAFR and issued an unmodified (or "clean") opinion indicating that the financial statements fairly represented the financial position of ACPS as of June 30, 2020 (CAFR, page 19).

Additionally, CLA has issued their letter to the School Board as required by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for all financial statement audits and their report on the Division's internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters (CAFR, page 153). No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses of internal control or instances of noncompliance with

certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements or other matters were noted that could have a direct and material effect on the financial statement amounts.

The CAFR follows the format prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). It includes: (1) an introductory section which provides general information on the school division's structure and the services it provides; (2) a financial section which contains the basic financial statements as well as the independent auditor's report; and (3) a statistical section which provides a broad range of financial and demographic information useful in assessing ACPS' economic condition, much of it in the form of ten-year trend data.

The following key financial highlights are reflected in the report:

General Fund

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, total revenues for the General Fund, were \$280.3 million, a 3.6% increase over FY 2019 actual revenues and \$0.4 million less than final budgeted revenues for FY 2020. Total expenditures for the General Fund for FY 2020 were \$274.3 million, a 1.4% increase over FY 2019 actual expenditures and \$11.2 million less than final budgeted expenditures. Total other financing transfers from the General Fund, for the VPI program, were \$1.6 million for FY 2020 (CAFR, Exhibit IV, page 46).

The City of Alexandria appropriation was \$231.7 million towards our General Fund expenditures for FY 2020, an increase of 3.5% or \$7.8 million over FY 2019 (CAFR, Exhibit IV, page 46).

At June 30, 2020, the General Fund reported a total ending fund balance of \$15.2 million, an increase of \$4.4 million from FY 2019 (CAFR, Exhibit IV, page 46). The fund balance is comprised of the following, as shown in CAFR, Exhibit III, page 44:

- a) *Nonspendable*- The nonspendable portion of the fund balance amounts to \$1.5 million to cover prepaid items.
- b) *Committed*- The committed portion was \$5.1 million designated by the School Board for use in FY 2021.
- c) *Assigned*- The assigned portion was \$1.5 million, designated for various program encumbrances carried forward into FY 2021 from FY 2020.
- d) *Unassigned*- The unassigned portion was \$7.1 million, or 2.6% of total General Fund expenditures.

Grants and Special Projects Funds

Total revenues from Grants and Special Projects funds were \$14.5 million for FY 2020, which reflected an increase of \$0.7 million from FY 2019. During FY 2020, federal grant revenues increased \$1.1 million from FY 2019 to \$10.5 million, while state grant revenues decreased by \$0.3 million from FY 2019 to \$3.6 million (CAFR, Exhibit IV, page 46):

School Nutrition Fund

Total revenues in the School Nutrition fund were \$8.9 million for FY 2020, a decrease of \$0.6 million from FY 2019. During FY 2020, federal and state revenues decreased \$0.3 million from FY2019 to \$7.2 million

and food service expenditures increased \$1.9 million from FY 2019 to \$9.4 million (CAFR, Exhibit IV, page 46). The School Nutrition fund balance decreased \$0.5 million in FY 2020 to \$2.9 million. The School Nutrition Fund is required to keep sufficient reserves on hand to fund three months of operations. The current fund balance level equates to approx. 3.1 months of operations.

Employees' Supplemental Retirement Plan

The plan year for the ACPS Supplemental Retirement Plan ended August 31, 2019. The financial status of this fund is strong. As of this plan year end, the Plan financial statements reflect a total pension liability of \$135.3 million and plan fiduciary net position of \$127.8 million, resulting in plan liabilities in excess of total pension assets of \$7.5 million (CAFR, page 89). For the plan year ended August 31, 2019, the total pension liability increased \$4.4 million, representing the current year net pension cost. Since January 2013, no employer contributions were made to the Plan. All contributions made to the Plan were by employees, at the rate of 1.50% of payroll, and totaled \$2.7 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. During FY 2020, total Plan additions were \$5.8 million, which included employee contributions of \$2.7 million and investment income of \$3.1 million. Total fund deductions were \$6.6 million and consisted primarily of retiree benefit payments of \$6.3 million (CAFR, Exhibit XV, page 136).

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Pension Plans

The *net pension asset* for ACPS' portion of the *VRS Political Subdivision Retirement Plan*, totaled \$4.9 million for FY 2020, compared to \$5.1 million for FY 2019. Net pension assets are created when total pension plan assets exceed corresponding total pension liabilities (CAFR, Exhibit XIII-2, page 124).

The *net pension liability* for ACPS' share of the *VRS Teacher Employers Retirement Plan*, totaled \$243.8 million for FY 2020, compared to \$215.9 million for FY 2019 (CAFR, Exhibit XIII-3, page 125). Net pension liabilities are created when pension liabilities are greater than the corresponding accumulated pension plan assets. For the VRS Teachers Plan, the total (unfunded) net pension liability, including all Virginia school districts, was \$13.2 billion at June 30, 2020 (the most recent year reported), compared to \$11.8 billion for the prior year. ACPS is not able to implement a financial plan to address this liability as annual VRS contribution rates are set solely by the Virginia General Assembly.

Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (OPEB)

As of June 30, 2020, the ACPS Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust fund reflected total net position of \$21.7 million, an increase of \$0.6 million from FY 2019 (CAFR, Exhibit XIV, page 136).

ACPS contributed \$1.7 million to OPEB during FY2020 towards the cost of retiree health premium subsidies in the current fiscal year.

Total fund deductions were \$1.7 million and consisted primarily of healthcare benefit payments made to the Health Benefits Fund to subsidize current retiree health coverage (CAFR, Exhibit XV, page 136).

Health Benefits Fund

For FY 2020, total revenues in the Health Benefits Fund were \$32.6 million, and total expenses were \$30.0 million. At June 30, 2020, the Health Benefits Fund net position was \$7.0 million (CAFR, Exhibit V, page 49). This reflected an increase of \$2.6 million from FY 2019 (CAFR, Exhibit VI, page 49).

The ACPS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 can be found on-line at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/487>.

The auditors' letter of communication to ACPS governance will be included with the CAFR submission to the School Board.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board accept the FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

CONTACT PERSON: Michael Covington, Director, Accounting, 703-619-8040

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
2. Auditor's Letter to the School Board