

Budget Advisory Committee

February 13, 2020

7PM

Location: George Washington Middle School

Minutes

Budget Advisory Committee Members

Erin Dahlin (Chair)

Nancy Drane (Secretary)

Sean McEneaney

Sukumar Rao

Emily Swenson Brock (not present)

Lillian Vagnoni (not present)

ACPS Staff Liaison

Robert Easley, Budget Director

School Board Liaison

Ramey Gentry

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Tabled to Next Meeting due to lack of Quorum

Staff Report

- First Add/Delete was last night (February 12). There were some technical adjustments to correct small errors, technical glitches. There were 5 add/deletes with the requisite number of co-sponsors, 1 of which was really just a title change. Of the remaining 4, they were:
 - Adding staff member at TCW – ACPS did not support, but there was a lively discussion
 - Stipend to Paraprofessionals for post-2:30 p.m. duties – ACPS did not support, and clarified that paraprofessionals are being paid for hours worked
 - Pro-rated health care to those who do not meet the 20 hour threshold for qualification – ACPS did not support due to the significant potential fiscal impact and inconsistency with required hours associated with other benefit categories (e.g., retirement)
 - 1% market rate adjustment for Paraprofessionals – ACPS did not support, as an increase was not recommended in the recently conducted compensation study; their salary may be low, but is not below market
- There is no need for a second Add/Delete on February 18, but there will be a work session on that day around co-location in preparation for the joint School Board/City Council work session later in February.
- Q&A
 - BAC member asked about community advocacy around bottle fillers at GW Middle School. There was a private donation made to support 8 such fillers at the school, with

additional support through the CIP. BAC members emphasized the need for clarification and communication to the community on this issue. This led to general feedback on the need to ensure that there is communication on budget-related requests that might be otherwise addressed in the budget, but perhaps unknown to community.

- Next Steps
 - City Manager does his annual budget release on Tuesday, February 18. On Thursday, February 20, City Manager will attend the School Board meeting to present the schools portion of the city budget.

Feedback on BAC Memo Thus Far

- Some anecdotal feedback on places BAC could be helpful:
 - Weigh in on budget priorities/budget setting exercise
 - Advise on communications around the budget
 - Identify process fixes w/r/t timeline
- BFAAC is doing a memo on communications; interested in how to communicate about the budget as a whole, as opposed to little issues – we could learn from this
- Interest in identifying things that BFAAC and BAC, City and Schools can come together on since we are an uniquely sized community (e.g., nutrition, school lunch debt) – things to move the needle on together
- Education Foundation – how to channel philanthropic interests; how do you set parameters on setting priorities; etc.
- Interest in how we might create a “reach” budget that more accurately reflects budget needs
- Are there others we want to reach out to?
 - PTAC, PTAs, Other?

Other Business

- We have a membership crisis – need Board engagement on recruiting more members
- BAC Engagement and Membership Ideas
 - City Boards and Commissions send out a list of vacancies. Is this something ACPS could do?
 - Put BAC Scope of Work or Memos on regular, non-consent calendar to generate discussion
 - Create feedback loop between BAC and Board

With that, the meeting was adjourned.