

Date: February 15, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X

No _____

FROM: Michael R. Herbstman, Chief Financial Officer
Dominic B. Turner, Director of Budget and Financial Systems

THROUGH: Dr. Lois Berlin, Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: FY 2019 Combined-Funds Budget Add/Deletes, Co-Sponsorships and Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget

BACKGROUND: ACPS is moving forward in our efforts to realize the mission and vision established in the ACPS 2020 strategic plan, and to prepare every student to have the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century. We are guided by a commitment to achieving academic excellence, where every school is high performing and every student succeeds. The adoption of the Combined-Funds Budget is an annual commitment to programs and activities for Alexandria City Public Schools.

On Thursday, January 11, 2018, the Superintendent proposed the FY 2019 Combined-Funds Budget for School Board consideration. This was followed by a series of work sessions, public hearings and staff responses to School Board questions.

On February 5, School Board Members submitted their Add/Delete proposals. On February 12, Members co-sponsored the Add/Deletes of other Board Members. The attached FY 2019 Proposed Combined-Funds Budget Add/Delete Summary lists each recommended addition or deletion and the number of co-sponsors that each recommendation received. The Superintendent considered the Add/Deletes and Co-Sponsorships in her Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget.

SUMMARY: According to the FY 2019 Rules of Engagement, Add/Delete items receiving "a minimum of two co-sponsors [are] to be considered with the Superintendent's recommended adjustments." All items meeting this threshold are listed below as either a (1) Superintendent's Recommended Adjustment or (2) Item Considered but Not Recommended for Adjustment. In addition, there were two technical adjustments necessary to correct the budget.

Superintendent's Recommended Adjustments

1. Restoration of Elementary Student Improvement Positions:

- \$979,800 Expenditure Increase

- The original proposed budget decreased the base allocation of student improvement positions by 0.5 FTE at each elementary school. This recommendation restores the base allocation to current-year levels.
2. **Utilize Current Position within Curriculum & Instruction for a K-3 Talented and Gifted (TAG) Instruction Coordinator:**
 - \$0 Expenditure Change
 - In line with the recent TAG evaluation, a K-3 TAG coordinator position is recommended. This position will not require an addition to the overall budget but instead will require shifting a position already in the Curriculum & Instruction budget.
 3. **Implement Young Scholars Program at Additional Schools in FY 2019:**
 - \$22,000 Expenditure Increase
 - Currently the Young Scholars program serves students in Cora Kelly, Mt. Vernon, Patrick Henry and James K. Polk. The original proposed budget called for expanding funding to Douglas MacArthur and William Ramsay in FY 2019. (Douglas MacArthur is already implementing the program using their base school funding in FY 2018). In addition to MacArthur and Ramsay, the Superintendent recommends implementing Young Scholars at John Adams and the West End Elementary in FY 2019.
 4. **Add Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) Position:**
 - \$0 Expenditure Change to Operating Budget (position to be funded by Title III grant)
 - This recommendation is to include a new position in the FY 2019 Title III application to support division-wide professional learning and internal capacity building in Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) strategies. This position can be accommodated within the anticipated Title III funding and will not affect Operating Fund expenditures.
 5. **Textbook Changes:**
 - \$663,700 Expenditure Reduction
 - The original proposed budget included text book adoptions consisting of K-2 Reading Program (Texts and Libraries), 3-5 Reading Program (Texts and Libraries) and Social Studies (Grades 2-4). The Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget defers the 3-5 Reading Program adoption for a reduction of \$612,500. In addition, it is recommended that the Curriculum and Instruction Office utilizes current-year funding to purchase the Social Studies materials. This will reduce FY 2019 expenditures by \$51,200.

Items Considered but Not Recommended for Adjustment

1. **Reduce Reserve Positions by 1.0 FTE to offset TAG FTE:**
 - This offset is not necessary as the recommendation is to use an existing position as the K-3 TAG Coordinator (as described above in Superintendent's Recommended Adjustment #2).
2. **Reinstate 1.0 FTE English Learner Instructor for Matthew Maury and Lyles-Crouch:**
 - English Learner reserve positions were added to the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2019 Budget. Based on projected student population, Matthew Maury and Lyles-Crouch are not expected to require these formula-driven positions. However, staff will continue to monitor these schools to determine

whether new positions there would be the best use of the 2.0 FTE English Learner Instruction reserve.

3. **Add 0.5 FTE English Learner Instruction Coach for the Early Childhood Department:**
 - The Superintendent's recommendation is to address this need by providing professional development to Pre-K teachers on meeting the needs of English learners. This can be accomplished with existing resources.
4. **Set Aside Funding for Implementation of Possible Recommendations from the Specialized Instruction Evaluation:**
 - The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) has requested \$250,000 in the budget for potential recommendations from the ongoing Specialized Instruction Evaluation. It has not been the practice of the School Board to fund potential recommendations prior to finalization of an evaluation or audit.
5. **Coaching Stipends for Rugby Club Sports**
 - ACPS currently provides the rugby club teams with logistical support and funding support. T.C. Williams Athletics facilitates field scheduling for practices and games, provides transportation and provides some financial support for insurance, uniforms and officials. It has not been ACPS practice to fund coaching stipends for club sports (with the exception of Crew). Additionally, no other Virginia public school provides funding support for Rugby.
6. **Pilot Program for Summer Reading at William Ramsay and Cora Kelly**
 - Title I summer programs already exist at these schools for this purpose.

Technical Adjustments

In addition, there are two technical adjustments necessary to correct errors in the proposed budget.

1. **Shift of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Positions from John Adams to the Early Childhood Center:**
 - \$0 Expenditure Change
 - Beginning in School Year 2018 – 2019, ECSE classrooms will shift from John Adams Elementary School to the Early Childhood Center. These positions were mistakenly left in the John Adams proposed budget for FY 2019. They are now being shifted to the Early Childhood Center.
2. **Increase Mt. Vernon Specialized Instruction Teacher Allocation and Offset Allocation with the Reduction of a General Reserve Position:**
 - \$0 Expenditure Change
 - A 1.0 FTE Teacher Position for a Citywide classroom was accidentally omitted from the proposed budget. This position will be restored. To offset the cost, a 1.0 FTE general reserve position will be eliminated from the budget.

Overall, the recommended budget changes increase the Operating Fund budget by \$338,100 from the Superintendent's Proposed Budget delivered on January 11, 2018.

The School Board is scheduled to discuss these recommendations as well as the Add/Deletes on Thursday, February 15, 2018 during the Preliminary Add/Delete Work

Session. If needed, there will be a second Add/Delete Work Session on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board considers the changes included in the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget throughout the Board's Add-Delete process.

CONTACT PERSON: Michael Herbstman, Chief Financial Officer, 703-619-8098

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY 2019 Proposed Combined-Funds Budget Add/Delete Summary