

**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 15, 2021 – 6:30 TO 8:00 P.M.**

**\*VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM\***

**MINUTES**

**Budget Advisory Committee Members Present:** Nancy Drane [Chair]; Selena el Hajji; Sukumar Rao; Ryan Reyna

**ACPS Staff Liaison:** Robert Easley, Director, Budget & Fiscal Compliance

**School Board Liaison Present:** Ramee Gentry

**Guest:** Julia Burgos, ACPS Communications

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:18 p.m.
2. **Public Comments** – There were no public attendees at the meeting, so no public comments were received.
3. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** – The November 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.
4. **Staff Report and Discussion** – Staff Liaison Robert Easley shared the following:
  - a. Status of FY23 Budget Development Process – ACPS budget staff has solicited ideas from departments, reviewed prior fiscal year activities as a starting point, and asked for any new resource requests. They are also working behind the scenes re: revenue forecast and considering Division wide issues like market rate adjustments, health benefit cost projections, etc. They'll be making some decisions on the expenditure side to see if they can even take on any additional resource requests. During the month of December, ACPS budget staff will be participating in 2x2 meetings with old and new Board members to get feedback on what Superintendent is proposing, for staff to provide insight to electeds, and to anticipate things that need to be tweaked, etc. Staff are also working on the budget book. On January 6, Superintendent will release proposed budget, with public hearing set for January 20. ACPS may consider doing some listening sessions in January, and will use social media channels to publicize – “we want to hear from you.”
  - b. Ms. Gentry shared that there is media attention on Governor Northam's budget and things he is talking about, but reality is that the incoming Governor and Delegates take the baton and can make some changes in January. Changeover years can be hard.

- c. Mr. Easley added that anticipated focus of FY23 budget will be on employee compensation, including step increases and market rate adjustments. Other increases may go to facilities-related needs not funded by the ESSER grants.
- d. Superintendent's presentation will include details on Federal funds and how they've been used.

**5. Guest Discussion (Ms. Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations)**

- a. Ms. Burgos shared an overview of ACPS communications strategies re: budget-related issues, including "bite, snack, meal" communications, social media, outreach to community groups, etc.
- b. She encouraged BAC to identify ways it can support ACPS in budget-related communications

**6. Next Steps: Scope of Work**

- a. We will assign [divisions for BAC members to examine](#) and develop list of areas to explore. We will ask BAC members to complete research and report out at the March 2022 BAC meeting.

**7. Chair's Report**

- a. Reminder about upcoming Joint Meeting with city Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC) – January 26 at 7:00 p.m. (Virtual)

**8. Adjournment** – with that, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.