

2021-22 BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The meeting started at 7:03pm.

1. Twelve members were present: Chuck Rush (Chair), Erik Sullivan (Vice-Chair) Melanie Bowen (Past-Chair), Julie Davis, Nellie Carr, Michael Lyons, Katherine Christensen, Bridget Obikoya, Sal Tajuddin, Andy Greenwood, Jennifer Wheelock, and Jennifer Wagener.

APS Assistant Superintendent Leslie Peterson, APS Board Chair Cristina Diaz-Torres

2. Public comment

Reg Goeke (Arlington Parents for Education)

- o Referenced letter sent to School Board
- o APE applauds increase in salaries for teachers
 - Believes this not enough due to changes other districts are making
- o Applauds decreasing class sizes
 - Believes this needs to go further because WABE benchmarks show Arlington has some of the largest classroom sizes (going back a few years)
- o Missing investment in learning loss recovery
 - Many neighboring districts are investing in tutoring and after school programs

Fairfax county allocating 1.6% of total budget into tutoring programs

- o Arlington highest in region in cost per student – APE believes if we aren't the highest in compensation and lowest in class size, we must be doing something incorrect
 - APS has more non-student facing positions – can these be shifted to student facing?
 - Use of more reserves should be considered
 - Is there additional support from the County?

Josh Folb (AEA)

- o Josh has thoroughly gone through the budget and is happy to spend time with any BAC member who has questions or wants to discuss further
- o Pleased to see investment in compensation but concerned the shelf life on the plan is short given the actions other jurisdictions are taking
- o Recommends two proposals for the budget going forward:
 - Automatically fund future Compensation Reserves with the portion of close-out funds that were from the lapse in compensation/turnover from prior year
 - Include annual cost of living adjustment in budget presentation – can be tied to social security or CPI or other agreed upon benchmark

3. The February minutes were approved.

4. School Board Update – Cristina Diaz-Torres

- Such as investment in HR systems that should yield efficiencies in the future