

Summary – Board Budget Policy Committee Meeting

February 27, 2018

Government Center – Conference Room 11

Committee Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
John Cook, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Jeff McKay, Lee District (Committee Chair)
Lynda Smyth, Providence District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District
Kathy Smith, Sully District

School Board Members Present:

Karen Keys-Gamarra, At Large
Ilryong Moon, At Large
Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District
Jane Strauss, Dranesville District (Vice Chairman)
Tamara Derenak Kaufax, Lee District
Sandy Evans, Mason District
Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District
Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield District
Thomas Wilson, Sully District

Previous Meeting Agenda and Materials (January 30, 2018)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/board-supervisors-budget-committee-january-30-2018>

February 27, 2018 Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/board-supervisors-budget-committee-february-27-2018>

February 27, 2018 Meeting Materials:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/budget%20committee%20meeting/2018/feb-27/fy-2019-and-fy-2020-multi-year-budget.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 P.M.

After a brief introduction by Supervisor McKay, County Executive Bryan Hill, Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro, Fairfax County Public School's (FCPS) Superintendent Scott Brabrand, and FCPS Chief Operating Officer Marty Smith gave a presentation about the FY 2019 and FY 2020 Multi-Year Budget, linked above.

Board Discussion:

- The issue of lower valued properties having the largest assessment increases is noted.

- Chairman Bulova suggested that the Lines of Business process should be used to find efficiencies in Fairfax County operations and emphasized the need to engage the community in the Lines of Business process review. She asked about the timeline for further Lines of Business review. CEX Hill responded that staff is looking at the Lines of Business now and that as part of its strategic plan, the County will incorporate ideas of how to involve the community and also the Schools.
- Several Board members and School Board members spoke favorably about advertising the tax rate at the proposed 2.5 cent increase included in the County Executive's Advertised Budget, with some noting that the advertised rate was the maximum rate, not necessarily the final rate.
- Members of both boards expressed satisfaction with the collaborative approach between the County Board and the School Board and the joint County/Schools budget presentation. It was noted that communication between the boards has improved. The committee discussed that one way to realize efficiencies was to continue a collaborative approach that would break down barriers between the two organizations. When possible, the County and Schools should share facilities and services. The schools should be consulted when the County works on its strategic plan.
- Multiple School Board members spoke favorably about the fact that the Advertised Budget would allow FCPS to bring teacher compensation much more closely in line with regional market averages. Several School Board members also spoke favorably about the increased capital spending for Schools embedded in the budget. Several perspectives on the budget were shared by School Board members, including funding needs not included in the Advertised Budget. These include funding the Office of Equity, One Fairfax, computer initiatives, increasing the per capita number of school nurses, increasing the number of psychiatrists and social workers, and the need to increase spending on ESOL needs. Several noted that the FCPS was not receiving a fair share of revenue, either from the State or Federal governments.
- *Budget Q&A: School Board Chair Sandy Evans asked about the Gang Prevention report. CFO Mondoro responded that an analysis regarding the use of non-recurring carryover funds for gang prevention efforts and long-term approaches to gang prevention was provided to the County Board; it will be furnished to the School Board as well.*
- School Board member Ilryong Moon asked whether it would be possible to get private sector's pay raise information for the last several years for comparative purposes. It was noted that because of the wide range of private sector companies and occupations and because of different benefit packages, it would be difficult to get comparative information. Committee Chair McKay suggested it might be possible to look at compensation increases for the federal government and the private sector at a high level. Mr. Moon asked what effect the expansion of the capital budget by \$25 million and \$50 million would have. FCPS Chief Operating Officer Marty Smith responded that \$25 million would reduce 68 temporary classrooms at 8 schools; with \$50 million, 342 classrooms at 23 schools.
- Discussion ensued on the issue of vacant office buildings in Fairfax County (Slide 24), including questions about the percentage of County buildings that are 'obsolete' and how the high vacancy rate for office buildings affected property values and assessments. *Budget Q&A: School Board member Elizabeth Schultz asked about the percentage of buildings that are considered obsolete.* There was discussion on the County's efforts to find ways to convert obsolete office buildings to other uses.
- Supervisor Daniel Storck asked what FCPS was doing to ensure the safety of its students and provide better access control for Schools. School Superintendent Brabrand indicated that the School System is relooking carefully at its policies and procedures with regard to School access and that the results would be made available to the School Board by the end of the school year, and would be made available to the Board of Supervisors after that. There was discussion about the need for Schools to include public safety partners in the review.

- *Budget Q&A: Supervisor Gross asked staff to recirculate an updated chart that shows the percentage of state support for budgeted school expenditures from counties around the state.*
- *Discussion ensued regarding bond sale capacity. Budget Q&A: Supervisor Gross requested a history of bonding capacities over the last five years? What is the plan for School capital spending on renovations over the next five years, particularly in view of the \$25 million increase in capital outlays?*

The next meeting of the Board Budget Committee is scheduled for 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, 3/13/18.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.