

Summary – Board Budget Committee Meeting

November 28, 2017

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)
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
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 (Chairman)
Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill District
Tamara Derenak Kaufax, Lee District
Sandy Evans, Mason District
Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District (Vice Chairman)
Dalia Palchik, Providence District
Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield District

Previous Meeting Agenda and Materials (October 31, 2017)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/board-budget-workshop-10-31-2017.htm>

November 28, 2017 Meeting Agenda:

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/budget_committee_agenda_11_28_17.pdf

November 28, 2017 Meeting Materials:

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/bos_fcps_nov_28_2017_final.pdf

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

After a brief introduction by Supervisor McKay during which he highlighted that this was the first ever joint presentation between County and School staff in an effort to make the process easier to understand, Acting County Executive Kirk Kincannon, Fairfax County Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro, and Fairfax County Public School's (FCPS) Superintendent Scott Brabrand presented the *FY 2019 County and Schools Fiscal Forecast*, which is linked above.

Board Discussion

- Members of both Boards expressed their approval of the new joint presentation format and collaborative approach. Slides 28 and 35 of the presentation linked above were specifically identified by members of both Boards as clear depictions of important topics that will be useful for future discussion as work continues toward the adoption of the FY 2019 Budget.
- Chairman Bulova pointed out that this presentation is not the budget and that it is not currently balanced. She emphasized that both sides will need to work together to close the gap and adequately address needs on both sides.
- Employee compensation increases were discussed and both County and School Board members agreed that compensation is a priority. School Board Member Ilryong Moon noted that the FCPS budget is driven by compensation and that the presentation showed a very small increase in operating requirements relative to compensation for Schools. The committee discussed whether what was presented in the slides would provide equitable pay increases between the two organizations, with specific discussion around the MRA, which was calculated at 2.25% for County employees for FY 2019. It was noted by School Board Member Megan McLaughlin that an MRA equivalent was not included in the presentation for FCPS employees as currently proposed. The average pay increase for both County and non-teacher FCPS employees is projected to be similar as depicted on slide 35 of the presentation. There was also discussion about closing the market gap for teacher pay, with Supervisor Cook stating that it should be the most important joint Board issue moving forward. FCPS analysis shows that after the first year of employment, Fairfax County teachers on average begin to fall well below market levels for the Northern Virginia region.
- Use of temporary trailer structures at schools across the County was discussed. There are thousands of students being taught in trailers at all grade levels. Chairman Bulova asked whether FCPS has a plan in place to eventually eliminate the use of trailers. It was clarified that there is a plan, but that adequate funding is not available to address the issue given the many other priorities and capital improvement requirements that FCPS is facing. Supervisor McKay inquired as to whether enrollment levels and trailer usage were taken into account when making decisions around placement of programs and curriculum in the schools. It was determined that they are part of the decision making process, but that often the popularity of certain programs will result in increased enrollment at specific schools.
- The committee also discussed the rise in the number of children eligible for free and reduced meals. This is as a result of Virginia's participation in a pilot program to directly certify students as eligible for free and reduced meals who are currently eligible for Medicaid. This is expected to increase the number of eligible students by 4,000 students.
- Supervisor Foust asked whether any recurring savings or reductions were included in the presentation numbers and Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro stated that they were not, but that they would be part of the budget process and will be identified when the Advertised Budget is presented.
- Additional topics of discussion included the level of annual bond sales for the County and Schools; the County's policy around repurposing buildings for educational purposes; uncertainty around Title I, II, and III federal funding for Fairfax schools; and IT projects.
- *Budget Q&A: Supervisor Foust asked if the chart on page 7 of the linked presentation, which depicts federal procurement spending in Fairfax County, can be recalculated on an inflation adjusted basis starting with 2012.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.