

Below in red are responses to questions/comments that surfaced as a result of a FAC pre-meeting member survey sent out on October 15, 2020.

**Questions about the FAC purpose:** To advise administration and the school board on economic and school finance issues and to build community trust in district finances.

1. Do we have to meet with citizen groups or go to School Board Meetings?
  - a. We meet as a committee throughout the year and present at one board meeting in the late winter.
    - i. October 21, 2020
    - ii. November 18, 2020
    - iii. December 9, 2020
    - iv. January 13, 2021
    - v. February 10, 2021
    - vi. OPTIONAL February 23, 2021 (presentation to school board)
    - vii. March 24, 2021
2. Will there be other scheduled activities beyond the scheduled meetings.
  - a. Other than the February 10 optional school board meeting, probably not, unless something arises from the committee.
3. My question is, given the economic impacts of COVID-19, will this role be different (i.e. more prominent)?
  - a. The timeline and input points for the FAC will remain the same. The questions and concerns may be different this year due to COVID-19 because it has had such a prominent impact on enrollment and structures.
4. With regard to the next question, I feel as though race should not be the only factor when making decisions. I believe it is an important factor, but there are many more to consider (test scores, school rank, number of students affected by a policy, etc.)
  - a. Centering the impact of race in our work is one of the many proposed protocols for our work together as a committee. These protocols are important for our interactions together. Will propose a tweak to this protocol for clarity.
5. Does this committee solely give recommendations or is it in charge of district finances?
  - a. The FAC is advisory only.
6. It seemed like last year, given the larger group size, we became more of a "Financial Listening Committee" vs. a "Financial Advisory Committee". To facilitate a move back to an Advisory committee, I think it would be helpful if Patricia held separate financial statement educational meetings with new members separately (maybe even in the summer - before FAC commences), so that we can focus on bigger picture issues and questions vs. the ins and outs of the accounting.
  - a. We will work from the budget timeline (to be discussed at the first meeting). We will use meeting facilitation methods to be sure that all voices are heard. Last year we used table conversations to accomplish this goal. This year we have added more voices and will intentionally continue to have built in breakout

- room time.
- b. If committee members want additional training time outside of the meetings because something is confusing, they can connect with anyone on the Business Services team to set up a time to meet.
- 7. I also think the agenda should be driven more by the group vs. the facilitators.
  - a. Our work is driven by the strategic plan and budget timeline. As issues arise from the school board or superintendent that require advice from FAC, they will be brought forward.
- 8. Having the Superintendent present for each meeting should also be a priority. As I recall, he only attended one meeting last year - maybe two.
  - a. The superintendent is not an FAC member. The director of Business Services serves as the facilitator. Superintendent Osei attended the first meeting last year to let the members know about how he is adjusting his schedule to have the greatest impact. FAC will report to the superintendent and the school board at the end of our work.

**Feedback about protocols:**

**Protocols that need further discussion** (number in parenthesis indicates the number of members what listed that protocol):

- (5) Center the impact of race in our work

**Protocol that is most meaningful** (number in parenthesis indicates the number of members what listed that protocol): :

- (6) center the impact of race in our work;
- (5) be respectful;
- (0) share concerns directly with the person involved if a communication or relationship breakdown occurs;
- (9) listen for understanding without judgement, contribute individual perspectives, and assume good intent;
- (5) be fully present;
- (5) seek common understanding;
- (1) begin and end on time unless we agree to revise; and
- (1) have fun!

**Potential protocols to add:**

1. Speak your truth and help others to understand
2. Cameras should be on during zoom meetings and microphones off unless speaking
3. Remember that behind the numbers and values, lies real-life meaning that can have a profound impact on students and staff
4. Ask questions if you have them
5. Don't talk over others
6. Support ideas/claims with relevant data
7. Share your perspective on topics even if you feel that it isn't as relevant or the popular

opinion

8. Everyone should have the opportunity to speak if they are comfortable.

**Other protocol feedback:**

- Would it be possible to record a meeting (available to committee members only ) in the event that we are unable to attend a meeting?
  - Meetings will not be recorded. We did not record meetings when we met in person and will not do so in zoom. We want to encourage conversation and make everyone as comfortable as possible. If you cannot attend a meeting, materials will always be on the district website and you can connect with a committee member for further insight.
- I believe that the protocols listed are well thought out
- I think the ones above are great

**Wondering about:**

1. The list of documents mentions a FY2021 Budget Book, but I don't see the document when I go to the District Website. If it is there may I have a link, if not when will it be available?
  - a. The link is under departments, Business Services
2. I am super excited to be a part of the FAC!
3. Probably the same thing as everyone - how does COVID 19 affect the finances/budget moving forward
  - a. The timeline and input points for the FAC will remain the same. The questions and concerns may be different this year due to COVID-19 because it has had such a prominent impact on enrollment and structures.
4. How do the meetings typically proceed and what are the expectations for members of the FAC?
  - a. Meeting agendas and materials will be posted in advance. Members should follow the protocols as agreed upon.
5. Are there any resources you would recommend for better understanding governmental finances or that would be helpful for someone who is sitting on their first committee?
  - a. Just added "Financing Education in Minnesota" document to the FAC website at the bottom of the page. You may want to also read the budget book and FAC report from last year which is at that same location on the website.
6. The impact of remote and hybrid teaching models on teachers' and other staff contracts, the financial impact on hiring long-term substitutes, other costs associated with the pandemic.
  - a. These items will arise as we begin to discuss the audit results and budget planning.
7. The status of the facility expansion timeline and costs.
  - a. The facility expansion and costs may arise as part of our discussion of audit results and budget planning.

