ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 13, 2014

PURPOSE

The Superintendent has established the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (BFAC) for the purpose of providing guidance and counsel on matters of budget and finance as may be determined by the district administration. The Committee is comprised of representatives from the community, charter schools, principals, at-large, and central office.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview and Objectives
3. Committee Expectations and Norms
4. Budget Primer
5. FY16 Budget Calendar
6. Board Presentation – November 3rd Meeting
7. Questions and Discussion
8. Closing

Committee Members in Attendance

- **Community** - Youlanda Carr (Mays), Tammy Dixon (S. Atlanta), Clay Elrod (Jackson) Felecia Josey (Washington), Mark Rebillot (Grady), JaTawn Robinson (Carver) , Robert Stockwell (N.Atlanta), and Toni Terry (Douglass)
- **Charter Schools** - Chandra Selles
- **At-Large** - Cynthia Mickleberg and Marshall Norseng,
- **Principals** - Tony Burks II (Douglass), Clara Taylor (D.H. Stanton), and Joseph Salley (Kimberly Elementary)
- **Central Office** - Linda Anderson, Chuck Burbridge, CFO

Committee Members Absent

- Nicole Lawson, Tye Hayes, , Cynthia Dumas (Therrell), Buck Greene (Principal, Sutton Middle School)

DISCUSSION

Introductions were made by the participants of the committee. Chuck Burbridge outlined the goals and objectives of the group.

Emphasis was placed on the financial ratings of the district, budgetary efficiencies, development and review of the budget, planning and conducting stakeholder engagement activities, state and federal school financing, local property tax rates, and transparency of data and information.

Meeting Etiquette and Frequency - Norms for the group, in interacting with each other, dissemination of information, and providing feedback were outlined. Members were advised that there will be six monthly meetings held and instructed to come prepared to participate and share thoughts and ideas.

Draft Primer - The draft of the primer was introduced at the meeting. Discussions focused on the major fund groups, the economic context, general funds, Capital/SPLOST funds, federal categorical restricted use of funds, budget milestones, and APS Fast Facts.

FY16 Budget Calendar - Highlights focused on the expedience of the calendar, no expectations to use fund balance in FY16, Board adoption of waivers on class sizes, and staffing discussions. The calendar ends with the adoption of the millage rates.

Resources – (1) Discussion over millage rate was given. (2) The district will maintain a fund balance between 7.5% and the statutory limit of 15% of projected revenue. (3) Resource assumptions for FY16 are projected to be a 5% property digest increase from FY15, a 4% increase in QBE funding from FY15.

FY16 Parameters - The committee had discussions around expenditures which ensures resources are in accordance with the operating model selected by the Board and approved by Georgia Board of Education. Allocation decisions will be made to prioritize achieving more equitable distribution of resources pursuant the districts equity audit. The district will ensure that the budget is aligned to the Board's draft.

The district will fund pension obligations in accordance with State statutes. The safety, security and well-being of students and staff will be prioritized in the budget. The district will fix and maintain HVAC systems in school buildings. The district will invest in early childhood education programs.

Strategic priorities and draft initiatives will focus on academic programs, APS culture, talent strategy, and systems and resources.

Conclusion

Without millage increase, available resources will be limited to approximately the current level. Ability to increase fund balance is constrained. And without additional resources, implementation of budget parameters and strategic initiatives will be limited to the ability to repurpose spending in existing functions and reprioritize spending between functions.

Next Steps

Adopt resource estimates and class size ratios (December)
Discuss Enrollment Projections (January)
Planning Charter System (ongoing).

Next Meeting – December 11, 2014

We look forward to working with you and your support in our efforts to improve community involvement and transparency in the District's budget process.

Thank you.