

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 26, 2017

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, and central office.

Agenda

1. Governor's State of the State Address
2. FY2018 Budget Development Update
3. BFAC Led Discussion
4. What's Next

Committee Members in Attendance

- **Community** - Tammy Dixon, Felecia Josey, Marshall Norseng, Tyronia Smith, Fleda Jackson, Tom Terry, Regina Brewer
- **Principals** –Robin Robbins
- **Central Office** – Herb Joseph, Tammie Workman, Jennifer Lang, Robert Morales (CFO), Lisa Bracken, Kelly Redman, Alana Bethea, Wendy Angelety

DISCUSSION

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Bracken. Mrs. Bracken opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the monthly meeting, recognizing that the meeting's attendance may be lower than usual since a Mays Cluster Town Hall was taking place at the same time. She gave an overview of the Budget Commission meeting that had taken place earlier in the day. Mrs. Bracken then provided a brief overview of the agenda.

The first topic of discussion was the Governor's State of the State Address. Mrs. Bracken disclosed that there was a projected state revenue growth of 3.6% over the amended FY2017 budget. The Governor also proposed a 2% raise for public school teachers. Mr. Robert Morales, the district's CFO, explained the Governor's recommendation regarding the 2% increase to the teacher salary scale. He explained how the funding will be distributed to the district, through QBE and by increasing the state salary scale. He also explained that those assumptions were already factored in to our current projections for the FY18 budget.

Lisa continued the presentation, discussing how the Governor's FY18 proposed budget was mostly in line with the projections that had been made. The pay raise for teachers had already been included in the average salaries for FY18 budget development. The increased cost for health insurance for non-certified workers and the TRS rate increase had also been accounted for. Mrs. Bracken then spoke to some of the revenue drivers and their estimated FY18 impact. The 5-Mill share increased the district's reduction from QBE.

Mrs. Bracken provided an update of the district's FY18 budget development. Principals received their budgets on January 10th. Go Team meetings have been taking place at each school to allow principals to present their recommended budgets and Go Teams to approve them. School budgets are due February 3rd, before Human Resources holds their staffing conferences. Departments will receive their budgets on February 6th.

The discussion of Go Teams prompted a number of questions since many of the BFAC members also serve on school Go Teams. From this discussion, the following questions were asked:

Question: What percentage of salaries are benefits?

Mrs. Bracken explained that there is no set percentage as some of the benefit costs are flat. Because of this, benefits may be a much higher percentage of the salary of lower paid positions than the salary of higher paid positions.

Question: How were Signature Programming funds distributed?

Mrs. Bracken explained how the funds were allocated differently for FY18 than they were for FY17. To eliminate what some viewed as inequities in the FY17 allocations, signature programming will no longer be funded based on the program that was selected. The base of the funding is determined by the phase the program is implementing. She explained how the phase will determine the cost and the allocation to each school. This method would allow for schools that are in the early phases of implementation to have the funds to move to more advanced phases.

Question: Are schools required to use all funds earned for Signature Programs in that signature program?

Mrs. Bracken explained that the district wants schools to use as much of their Signature allocation for Signature programs as possible.

Mrs. Bracken also announced that she has been tasked with leading a review committee on how the district allocates funding for students and schools. She will review weighted student funding and possibly be part of a pilot on the proposed state funding formula change. She reviewed what a weighted student formula could look like. She also stated that these questions would have to be asked: What is being weighted? At what weight should the categories weighted? What would be the CLL distribution? What is the role of the Principal; instructional leader or building CEO? She stated that she had already begun gathering data on school districts that used student weighted formulas and that she would distribute those documents to the advisory committee.

Conclusion

At the next BFAC meeting Mrs. Bracken would like to start developing what a weighted student funding model will look like for the district. Mrs. Bracken also encouraged committee members to send suggestions for agenda items for the next meeting.

Next Meeting – February 16th, 2017

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