

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 16, 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. Meeting Goals
2. FY2018 Revenue Update
3. FY2018 Expenditure Update
4. FY2018 Current Gap Analysis
5. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Committee Members in Attendance

- **Community** - Tammy Dixon, Felecia Josey, Marshall Norseng, Rosalynn Triplett
- **Central Office** – Herb Joseph, Tammie Workman, Jennifer Lang, Robert Morales (CFO), Lisa Bracken, Rhonda Dunn, Brian Easley

DISCUSSION

The meeting was called to order, promptly at 6:00pm, by Lisa Bracken. Lisa Bracken opened the meeting by giving an overview of the goal of today's meeting: the first look at the FY18 Budget Revenues vs. Expenditures.

Lisa Bracken provided the committee with information received during a meeting with the interim county tax assessor about tax revenues. She went on to explain the state revenue picture and breaking down the formula, most specifically the local fair share and the austerity cuts. This paints the picture of historical underfunding of the district. Marshall Norseng interjected, the austerity is less of the total state revenue over time.

Lisa Bracken moved on to introduce the Fund 150/consolidation of funds (Title I allocations) to the committee. She also discussed the use of Fund Balance (slide 9).

Moving on to centralized supports (slide 13), Lisa Bracken introduced the proposed \$8million in both non-personnel and personnel cuts included in the working budget.

Q (Marshall Norseng): Is the Charter line 100% in 'Instruction'?

A (Lisa Bracken): Yes.

The group was handed out flyers for the task force for Student Based Allocations (SBA) and Lisa Bracken explained who the task force would be comprised of and what they will be charged with doing.

Q (Herb Joseph): Does the \$90MM include utilities?

A: (Lisa Bracken): Yes.

Lisa Bracken introduced the SBA ideology, adding that certain items will be added to the allocation formulas but some won't depending on viability.

Q (Tammy Dixon): Enrollment vs. Capacity at the schools, for schools with less than 300 students, how will those schools be able to afford to do business.

A: (Lisa Bracken) Equity vs. Equality. Every school will have a base allocation for admin with a per pupil layer; weighted on student attributes. The task force will discuss things such as: How much will we continue to fund for programs vs. the student.

Q (Tammy Dixon): Funding the signature programs, the district is committed to funding them in the out years, how will that flexibility be handled with the coordinators still in place?

A: (Lisa Bracken): That is one of the questions that will be answered by the task force.

Lisa Bracken moved on to presenting the GF budget.

- Conservative 5% increase in local revenue (may be more but the board is comfortable with using 5% for now)
- \$11million in fund balance
 - \$4million restored austerity

Audited fund balance: ~\$94million as of today

Q (Marshall Norseng): Are the GoTeams involved in the budgeting of the restored austerity dollars?

A (Lisa Bracken): The budgets will go back to the GoTeams. We are unclear whether another vote will be imminent.

Robert Morales addressed more in depth the meeting with the tax assessor; noted appeals were won by property owners because of a misinterpretation of the tax law. The appeals process was handled incorrectly. The assessor remains constant on growth.

Q (HJ); Will those appeals be overturned?

A (Robert Morales): There is a 3-5 year window but it is possible that those properties will see increases in the future.

Lisa Bracken brought up the webinar from Edunomics.

Lisa Bracken posed using a cluster to pilot the SBA.

Robert Morales revealed that Lisa Bracken has been published in the School Business Affairs, "Budgeting for a District in Transformation"

Discussion around the SBA

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Conclusion

At the next BFAC meeting we will discuss the “Glows and Grows” for the year, what we accomplished, and what’s next. Lisa Bracken will also further discuss Student’s First Funding.

Next Meeting – April 20th, 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.