

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 20, 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. FY2018 Budget Development Update
2. Glows & Grows
3. FY2017 Accomplishments
4. What's Next

Committee Members in Attendance

- **Community** – Mark Rebillot, Tyronia Smith, Toni Terry, Felecia Josey, Rosalynn Triplett
- **Central Office** – Deborah Scott, Herb Joseph, Lisa Bracken, Eugene Herrington, Kelly Redman, Brian Easley

DISCUSSION

The meeting was called to order, promptly at 6:01pm, by Lisa Bracken. Lisa Bracken opened the meeting by thanking the committee for their participation over the year and presenting the highlights from the Budget Commission meeting (available online). The presentation included the consolidation of funds and the rest of the Title Fund allocations. Since the March presentation there have been a few notable changes to the FY2018 operating budget. The property tax growth projection was increased to 6% and austerity reductions were eliminated. These additional funds have been pushed out to schools.

Lisa Bracken opened the floor to the group for discussion of the FY17 BFAC process. The group was asked what they liked (glowed) about the FY17 BFAC process and how we can improve (grow).

What Glowed?

Mark Rebillot noted that he appreciates the increased transparency. Lisa Bracken inquired about the frequency of meeting and the group said that once a month is appropriate. Toni Terry also commented on increased engagement and appreciates being heard.

Where to Grow?

Mark Rebillot suggested more out of meeting work and study materials. Lisa Bracken expressed wanting more inclusion from GoTeams and cluster representation. Committee notes that when the BFAC was first formed, there was more representation from school officials. That has changed over time and we should focus on getting more school based committee members.

There was a brief discussion surrounding GoTeams and how to get them more in line with the BFAC. Lisa Bracken asked “How can we better equip GoTeams for budgeting?” Tyronia Smith stated that the GoTeams were confused by the few high level materials supplied and more detailed content would be helpful. There was an inconsistent level of knowledge among GoTeams that could be improved through a semiannual “Budget Bootcamp.”

Lisa Bracken moved to the FY17 Budget Accomplishments, highlighting winning awards for the Budget document, the interactive online tools and establishment of GoTeams. Next, Lisa Bracken discussed the FY18 initiatives, turning to the Student Success Funding task force. Lisa Bracken acknowledged the multi-layer nature of the plan and relayed her intent to push as much

to school budgets as possible. She noted the flexibility and creativity that can come with this approach and expressed her desire for BFAC input throughout the process. Under this new model, district priorities will be school priorities and schools will have autonomy to focus on their most critical needs.

Lisa Bracken closed the meeting with two questions:

Is moving towards this funding formula the right move for APS?

The group leaned towards a change.

How can the BFAC be more solution oriented?

Lisa Bracken asked the group, while on recess, to be solutions oriented going into the new fiscal year and working through the Student Success Funding process.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Conclusion

The FY2018 budget process was a success and we will be focused on the Student Success Funding initiative as we move into the FY2019 process.

Next Meeting – Fall 2017

We enjoyed working with you during the FY2018 budget process and appreciate your support in our efforts to improve community involvement and transparency in the District's budget process. Thank you.