

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 19, 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. Introductions
2. FY2019 Resource and Expenditure Parameters
3. Current FY2019 Assumptions
4. Student Success Funding Model (SSF)

Committee Members in Attendance

- **Community** - Marshall Norseng, Luke Denny, Cecily Welch, Cynthia Ushry, Tyronia Smith, Joseph Dixon
- **Principals** –
- **Central Office** – Lisa Bracken, Chris Schwarzer, Eugene Herrington, Wendy Angelety, Alana Bethea, Herb Joseph, Deborah Scott

DISCUSSION

The meeting started with a word of welcome by Chris Schwarzer, Executive Director of Budget Services as host of the meeting. Each member was provided a copy of the presentation to follow along during the meeting. Mr. Schwarzer gave introductions to staff members and asked new members of BFAC to introduce themselves. Mr. Schwarzer and Mrs. Bracken worked with members to establish the purpose and expectations of the FY2019 BFAC. They both indicated that the expectations of the Budget team was to align the strategy with the resources, both within the district and at individual schools. Member Tyronia Smith stated her expectations were engagement, transparency, and being responsive to the needs of the schools. Mr. Marshall Norseng indicated his expectations were to hear the rationale of the budget parameters and understanding the background for budget decisions. Member Cecily Welch stated she expects to learn and have a clearer understanding of the roles they will play in the process and how this information will move up to the state so they have a clear understanding of what is happening at the district level. Mrs. Bracken also indicated that her expectations were to continue to build trust and educate the community about the budget process.

Chris Schwarzer then began a discussion of the FY2019 Budget Resource and Expenditure Parameters. He started with the guiding principles for revenue consideration then reviewed the revenue parameters.

Next, the Expenditure Parameters for FY2019 were discussed. Mr. Schwarzer reviewed the parameters which were very similar to last year's but with more direct alignment to the districts mission, vision, strategic plan, and charter system model. The second topic on the agenda was the FY2019 revenue and expenditure assumptions. Mrs. Bracken gave historical data on how the freeze of property assessments impacted the District revenue assumptions. Those impacts will have an effect on the District's state allocation (QBE funding) and the amount of local revenue that will be received by the District as well. The budget team will be closely monitoring the State's legislative cycle for any additional impacts to APS revenue. Mrs. Bracken also gave an overview of the Fund 150 pilot. This pilot allows more flexibility to the District by converting federal dollars into a consolidated general fund. This is the first year for this model and subsequent years may add additional federal funds.

Mrs. Bracken then discussed the move to a new funding model, Student Success Funding (SSF). She indicated that this model will be more transparent and allow for more flexibility and equity within the District. This will be a multi-faceted approach to funding schools with increased autonomy and accountability of Principals and their GOTeams, with increased guidance and support from the central office. The District is reviewing best practices of this model and working closely with an organization that has helped other Districts role out this approach to funding. She

indicated that BFAC will be an important component in getting feedback and helping to spread the word on this model.

October 19th BFAC Materials:

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=67698&dataid=62489&FileName=BFAC-Commission%2010.19.2017%20as%20of%2010.19.17FINAL.pdf>

Conclusion

Next Steps:

- Mrs. Bracken asked that the BFAC members try to recruit more GO Team members to participate in BFAC.
- Budget calendar will be approved by the Board
- It was requested that at the next meeting if a model of the new funding model could be shared with the members. Mrs. Bracken gave examples of states such as Denver and Hawaii as good examples.
- More information regarding SSF with some real numbers would be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting – November 16, 2017

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.