

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 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

Fulton County Tax Billing Delay and APS

Actions Taken

Expectations – October 19th Meeting Recap

FY2019 Budget Update

FY2019 Resource and Expenditure

Parameters - Approved

Committee Members in Attendance

- **Community** - Tammy Dixon, Luke Denny, Rosalyn Triplett, Caren Solomon
- **Principals** –
- **Central Office** – Joseph Herb, Tammy Workman, Lisa Bracken, Eugene Herrington, Brian Easley, Chris Schwarzer

DISCUSSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm, by Chris Schwarzer. Chris opened the meeting by introducing himself to the first time (2018-19) members and running down the agenda. The Fulton County tax situation was explained in full. No members' of the BFAC committee attending this meeting had received their tax bills. Tammie Dixon questioned the appeals of the 2017 bills. Eugene Herrington chimed in with information that the commission is not seeing an influx in appeals and is receiving payments. Chris Schwarzer moved on to a recap of the October 19th meeting.

Chris Schwarzer moved into the discussion of the SSF. Tammie Dixon questioned, and Lisa Bracken clarified that the SSF Model is not a voucher program. The model will fund schools based on their overall characteristics. If Student X moves to another school, those dollars will not "follow" him/her. Luke Denny asked about the \$pp for charter schools. Lisa Bracken explained, how the charters are funded (roughly, \$11.5K/pp). There was more discussion around the scatter plot (needs index/\$pp). Tammie Dixon inquired around the 'performance' dial. "What would be the considered if APS weighted funds based off performance?" Tammie Dixon also inquired on root-cause analysis. When discussing slide 20, which revealed the APS Benchmarks for locked/unlocked resources, Lisa Bracken interjected, "Did you all feel like you had 71% of flexibility and autonomy with your 2018 budgets?" Largely, the members responded 'no'. Caren Solomon asked if schools have the dollars to handle their custodians, as an example, would they have autonomy. She added that she felt an uneasiness in the language surrounding the 'flexibility and autonomy'. Lisa Bracken clarified that the decisions that go into the model will be district-based. Rosalyn Triplett had questions surrounding the priorities of the schools/district and what does accountability look like. Lisa Bracken voiced that currently there are not good measures of accountability in place. Tammy Workman spoke from the uneasiness of the central office roles. She also lent information to standards of service. Tammie Dixon inquired about grade-level weighting using the example: Grades 1-3 vs a high school student that is reading on a 3rd grade level. Lisa Bracken spoke to being strategic when choosing categories to weight for. Weighting larger, less concentrated categories that may impact numerous singular issues indirectly.

Chris Schwarzer announced the FY19 Budget Development Schedule. He told the group that models for SSF would be projected next week and there is a possibility that the BOE could vote against the new plan. In which case, we will be prepared for business as usual. Budget

templates will be available January 9th with principal trainings scheduled for the 9th and 10th (January).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Conclusion

The BFAC discussed the big issues rolling into the FY19 Budget cycle; Student Success Funding rumors and Local Taxes.

Next Meeting – January 18, 2018

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.