

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS (FAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

March 11, 2024
Yorktown High School

Members present: Hans Bauman, Kateri Garcia, David Goodman, Cynthia Hilton – Acting Chair, Sally Hoekstra, Zachary Larnard, Adam Rasmussen, Matthew Thoman

APS Staff present: Renee Harber, Cathy Lin, Mike Freda, Michael DePalma

APS Board present: Mary Kadera

Liaisons present: Greg Lloyd – Superintendent’s Sustainability Committee

Meeting Notes:

1. Acting Chair, Cynthia Hilton introduced herself to the rest of the committee and explained her goals for the duration of her tenure.
Cynthia asked each of the FAC members to introduce themselves so she can better understand what skills and backgrounds we bring to the committee’s work.
2. FAC needs a secretary! For now, the secretary role will rotate until a volunteer steps up.
3. Cynthia raised the topic our regular pre-meeting building tours: Are they useful? (Most agreed that they are.) Are we learning from them? (Somewhat. But more in the aggregate: How various school facilities compare to each other, and which places or issues stand out.) Should they be cut from future agendas? (Most agree: No!) Can they be improved? (Probably. Current tours are ad-hoc. They could be more deliberate, with specific topics to address and questions to consider.)
4. Cynthia also asked whether paper copies of some documents for FAC review could be provided, rather than them all being electronic. (Logistics of which documents and how many copies would need to be worked out. Unresolved for now.)
5. Motion and second to approve February 12, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion passed.
6. The Superintendent’s proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be released on May 9. The FAC will discuss it at our May 13 meeting. FAC will compile and submit its comments to the Board by June 4.
7. Cynthia reported out on the School Board Advisory Council (BAC) meeting that she attended. The Superintendent’s recently released proposed budget was the primary topic. This transitioned to a FAC discussion of the proposed budget.
 - a. 27% reductions over FY2024 to MCOMM, which is a critical funding source for facility projects that are too big for the operating budget but are often not big enough or have timelines long enough to justify capital bond funding.
 - b. Approx. 12% reduction in general maintenance funding.
 - c. And yet, with these cuts and others, the budget still includes a \$29M gap that would have to be balanced. APS is looking for additional revenue from the Commonwealth and a local property tax rate increase. The School Board and BAC want to cut on the use of one-time contingency funds.
 - d. Approx. 17% increase in non-school staff funding.

- e. BAC raised questions about relative costs of option schools (with attendant transportation needs). BAC asked why option programs were not replicated at other schools if demand exceeds capacity. Over a year ago, FAC requested information about demand for CC programs and, if programs are filled to capacity, how extensive are the waiting lists.

The FAC will provide formal budget comments to the Board. The FAC's response will recommend a renewed focus on maintenance.

8. Boundary policy discussion:

- a. Extensive discussion, parsing and alternate wordsmithing of the proposed revised boundary Policy B-2.1 and accompanying Policy Implementation Procedure-1 (PIP).
- b. FAC decided we *will* be providing formal comments on the proposed revised boundary policy language.

9. Motion by Kateri (seconded by Zach) to allow the Chair to send letters to the Board on behalf of the FAC regarding:

- a. FAC position on the proposed budget (circulated on 3/12, submitted on 3/14).
- b. FAC comments on boundary change language (circulated on 3/17, submitted on 3/20).

Adjourn.