

MINUTES

Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC)

Regular Meeting
2017-18 School Year

May 1, 2018

The meeting convened at 7:04 pm in Room 5050 of the Gatehouse Administration Center.
The following FPAC members attended:

Charles Hookey	<i>Braddock/Secretary</i>	Ian Kelly	<i>Springfield</i>
Jay Reddy	<i>Dranesville</i>	Kristen Hyatt	<i>Sully</i>
Howard Perlstein	<i>Hunter Mill</i>	Karen Hogan	<i>At Large/Chair</i>
Dan Aminoff	<i>Mason/Vice Chair</i>	Dave Phillips	<i>At Large</i>
Scott Higgins	<i>Mt. Vernon</i>	Allen Griffith	<i>Fairfax City</i>
Kate Howarth	<i>Providence</i>		

FCPS Staff:

Kevin Sneed, *Special Projects Administrator for Facilities and Transportation Services*
Dr. Francisco Duran, *Chief Academic and Equity Officer*

Meeting Opening

Hogan and Griffith introduced Katie Hermann, who will be the new Fairfax City representative to FPAC, upon the retirement of Griffith after the current school year. Hogan announced that FPAC member Melina Duggal (At Large) also will be leaving FPAC before the end of 2018, citing additional professional obligations.

Hogan announced that the evening's guest speaker, Dr. Duran, would join us later.

Community Time

No members of the public asked to speak.

Minutes

Minutes from the April 3, 2018 FPAC meeting were approved.

Staff Announcements

Sneed spoke of the increased bond limit for capital spending, outlining that FY 2020 will be the first budget reflecting the increase to \$180M, following, and assuming approval of, the 2019 bond referendum. In the longer-term budgeting, he is including an additional \$25M in bonding capacity every five years.

Sneed estimated that a new/revised renovation queue will be developed in the early 2020s, as the current queue should be completed by 2029.

Sneed spoke of the current thinking to return the Dunn Loring, Pimmit Hills, and Virginia Hills facilities to student use over the next ten years. He also estimated a proposed new western County high school would be opened by 2030.

Sneed reported that Jessica Gillis continues to work with the County on an improved proffer formula for developers.

Old Business

Hogan opened discussion regarding the FPAC Annual Report which will need to be (nearly) finalized at the next meeting (May 15) so it can be signed at the June 5 meeting, which should be brief. The presentation of the report to the School Board is scheduled for June 26.

Griffith reported on the "charge" he and his committee are working on (Developing the long-range vision for FCPS school facilities, to be included in the Facilities Comprehensive Plan). With the need for more

feedback from Instructional Services and further investigation into (every) facility compliance to the Ed Specs, it may be prudent to issue an “incomplete” on this matter and continue this effort over the next school year. Griffith’s committee will emphasize in this year’s progress report the need to have facilities reflect new/developing 21st Century learning parameters. Higgins offered to share an electronic link he found to Montgomery County’s effort in this regard.

Perlstein reported on the “charge” he and his committee are working on (Developing a CIP that reflects the capacity and major maintenance requirements of FCPS and demonstrates the impact of the current bond funding limits). He spoke of their efforts to report on having the CIP include facility “needs”, and not just a spending plan for previously identified (and approved) renovations with allotted funds. A quantification of major maintenance needs, along with funding options/requirements should also be part of the CIP. The CIP could/should also include a section on “stated goals” (e.g. eliminating attendance islands) and how to achieve them (time and money estimates).

There was discussion of where more/better/new “safety and security” concerns fit into “21st Century” school planning and facilities. The idea of a separate one-time bond initiative as a way to fund this effort was floated.

Hookey reported that he and Hogan met with Sneed regarding the “charge” of reviewing past FPAC recommendations and he has submitted a summary for the Annual Report.

Hogan asked that she receive all submissions to the Annual Report ASAP. Perlstein will assist in reviewing a compiled document.

New Business

There was no new business.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Duran joined the meeting and spoke to the question of what the instructional “side of the house” was seeing in (new/changing) teaching and learning concepts, particularly as they impact facilities needs.

He said that Early Childhood Space (pre-K) was a focus and that the possibility of “community school” facilities, particularly for the early grades, was being studied by FCPS. He noted that Montgomery County is a pioneer in this concept and was being looked at as a “best practices” example. The idea of providing physical and mental health & wellness services, along with early education, in a “one-stop” facility appears to be gaining traction nationwide.

Duran said there is a “general thinking” that a move away from the “traditional” learning experience may be necessary in order to provide the vast array of learners the “right” type of education. The FCPS high school ‘Pathways’ program is one example, as well as further development of CTE (Career and Technical Education), with emphasis on such things as cyber and health-related fields.

He said that Fairfax County is “on board” with developing joint-service facilities, involved in current discussions, and looking at joint funding of such. He described the mission, membership and opportunity provided by the County-sponsored SCYPT (Successful Children and Youth Policy Team), which includes representatives from a variety of County Offices and FCPS.

Duran noted that the current Academy programs in FCPS are successful, but that facilities needs and economies of scale (student participation) make it impossible to offer all of these opportunities at all of our schools. Transportation to a specific Academy for students seeking a program not offered at their base school is a challenge. The idea of offering some sort of CTE at the middle school level is also being studied. Currently there are some after-school opportunities. A pilot project in the Chantilly pyramid, which provides an electronic “tablet” to all students (FCPS ‘ON’) will allow examination of some new virtual learning techniques and experiences. He said it’s estimated at least 25% of FCPS households do not have technology (excluding cell phones). Internet connectivity is also a challenge in many households.

He spoke of new ways of classroom instruction focused on project-based learning, flexible furniture, and overall larger space needs. (Phillips noted the use of “demountable” walls at US government facilities offers flexibility and sound privacy not previously available with “accordion” walls and partitions.)

Duran noted the concept of “play” as a (critical) experience offering “collaborative” learning is (again) being recognized and (re)developed as part of the school day’s curriculum.

He noted that some (mostly younger) teachers embrace all of this aforementioned 'change' while others are a little slower to get on board, as expected. There are efforts in FCPS to introduce change using "pilot" programs with faculty volunteers. Introducing and understanding all the new and varied resources available to both teachers and students is a big job. He mentioned the "flipped classroom" approach is being studied. "A flipped classroom is an instructional strategy and a type of blended learning that reverses the traditional learning environment by delivering instructional content, often online, outside of the classroom. It moves activities, including those that may have traditionally been considered homework, into the classroom." (flippedlearning.org)

In response to whether year-round schooling in FCPS was on the horizon he said it was not. He also volunteered that he (and others) are seeing a huge regression in the ability to write cohesive and complete thoughts in grammatically correct sentences and paragraphs. The use of abbreviated text and 'bullet points as essays' is becoming more and more acceptable. His observation is that teachers are divided on how or whether to react to this societal change.

Member Time

There was no request for Member time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.