

**Long Range Educational Facilities Planning Work Group  
Meeting #10  
Council Workroom, Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street  
Monday, April 13, 2015  
Meeting Summary**

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*Meeting notes are recorded by City Staff to provide a written record of principal items of discussion, key comments, decisions of the Work Group, and comments from the public. They are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of the meeting.*

**Meeting Attendees**

**LREFP Work Group Members**

Mark Eisenhour  
Karen Graf  
Melynda Wilcox  
Justin Wilson

**ACPS**

Dr. Alvin Crawley  
Elijah Gross  
Laurel Hammig  
Clarence Stukes

**City of Alexandria**

Chris Bever  
Debra Collins  
Susan Eddy  
Mark Jinks  
Pat Mann  
Morgan Routt  
Beth Znidarsic

**Welcome and Introductions**

Karen Graf welcomed attendees and started a round of self-introductions. She indicated that the topic for discussion would be the Fiscal Challenges chapter, which was still being worked on between the City and ACPS staffs, followed by Next Steps.

**Fiscal Challenges Chapter**

Mark Jinks addressed the Fiscal Challenges chapter, indicating that the Work Group had three copies for reference: the original as drafted by the City, a redline/strikeout copy with ACPS edits, and a version with the ACPS edits incorporated into the document. He indicated that the principal difference in the drafts was that the City version included the dollar amounts for specific projects included in the plan, while the ACPS version did not. He indicated that the City staff felt the dollar amounts were useful because it shows the magnitude of the challenge involved.

Dr. Crawley suggested that the staffs continue to work toward a combined document. He said there is general agreement around the approach. The numbers are based on a specific approach, and ACPS wants to look further at how that is expressed.

Mark Jinks indicated that he considered it useful to include costs so people understand that some of these are not likely to be funded at this level. He suggested that the plan could include a range, “x to as much as” the amount in the plan. None of this can be done without a look at the city’s debt policy. Having order-of-magnitude amounts is useful in having that discussion.

Dr. Crawley indicated that these need to be expressed as possible challenges – this information on potential costs, impact on debt service, what are the possibilities for funding.

Justin Wilson indicated he would be comfortable with ranges. It will be useful to compare for example George Mason is so much different than MacArthur. It's useful to know what it would cost to add a second story on a school. The reality is that most of this will happen much later. We need to have a larger city infrastructure discussion with this information, as we do with transportation, sanitary sewers, affordable housing. This gives us a rough order-of-magnitude. This is more a menu than something where we will do everything in the list. Enrollment will change by location over time. We may no longer need to do one or more of these things when the time comes.

Melynda Wilcox indicated that having dollar amounts is necessary to be credible as a document, but the range will be helpful.

Karen Graf asked how much time would be needed, and if we could keep to the current schedule. Mark Jinks and Dr. Crawley indicated that they thought they could keep to the current schedule.

### **Next Steps**

Karen Graf suggested that the PTA Council be invited to attend one of the other events since they could not have the event at their May meeting, which is their final meeting until fall.

Susan Eddy asked for and received verification that the School Board briefing is still on, but without the Fiscal Challenges chapter. She then asked if the Work Group needed to meet again before the City Council briefing April 28<sup>th</sup>, that Council would be interested in the Fiscal Challenges chapter.

Karen Graf indicated that she would prefer if the members receive an e-mail with the revised text, and if they have comments respond, otherwise, accept that they have no comments to make.

She suggested that it might be useful for the group to meet again in May and June to talk about next year. There was interest in having secondary schools and Pre-K being addressed as parts of the document for next year's work. She asked what part of the calendar would make sense to have revisions complete for each group's decision making.

Justin Wilson clarified the City Council schedule with staff, that the Council would hold a public hearing June 13, and then hold an endorsement vote at last legislative session.

Karen Graf noted that the group had endorsed the other chapters previously, that now there were just some areas to iron out in Fiscal Challenges. She indicated she was comfortable having it go forward to the two bodies. She asked that maps that had been previously discussed be included in the plan clarifying the school parcels – which ones are City land and which are School District land.

Laurel Hammig indicated that these maps would be provided, including maps of ACPS land that's not used as school sites now. Melynda Wilcox suggested that the maps should show the adjacent parks and playgrounds.

Justin Wilson suggested that the steps for next year could be taken up at the City/Schools meeting rather than asking the Work Group to come back.

Karen Graf concluded with a hope that this document and the cooperative process of its development would help encourage people to think about the schools as more integrated with the city, "our city, our schools, our investment."

She asked if there were other comments from anyone, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting.