



# THE ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

130 Trinity Avenue, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404-802-2200 (P) 404-802-1204 (F)

## BUDGET COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2016 | 3:0PM - 5:45 PM

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Conference Room

**Matt Westmoreland, Chair**

- I. **Attendance:** Leslie Grant, Byron Amos, Matt Westmoreland, Nancy Meister, Courtney English, Eshe' Collins, Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent, Robert Morales, CFO.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by Matt Westmoreland and handed over to the Superintendent to begin the budget presentation.

### II. Meeting Goals

For this meeting

- To review the Superintendent's recommendation for the FY2017 General Fund Budget
- To determine Budget Commission's recommendation to the Board regarding tentative adoption for the FY2017 General Fund Budget
- To narrow the focus and develop next steps to advance resolution on the Big Bet Ideas

### III. Budget Discussion

1. The Superintendent reviewed the updated Budget Calendar and Timeline (Available on-line)
2. FY2017 General Fund Budget Discussion of Superintendent's Recommendation (A full copy the presentation is available on the website)

Summary of General Fund Revenue		SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES ...		
Revenue	FY2016	FY2017	FY2017 vs FY2016	Notes
Local	\$499,622,471	\$513,066,145	\$13,443,674	3% Growth from FY2016
State	\$181,863,915	\$192,307,017	\$10,443,102	\$4.5 million for charter system, plus \$5.0 million from QBE increase
Other	\$23,741,587	\$24,818,070	\$1,076,483	IGA, charter school buy-back, and field trips
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$705,227,973</b>	<b>\$730,191,233</b>	<b>\$24,963,259</b>	

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## The Budget Process: Showing our Work

SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES ...

- Since the initial FY2017 budget submittal in January, the administration has worked to close a budget gap of more than \$60 million.
- Reduced the request for CLL departments by nearly \$31.6 million, including real cuts to the central office budgets by more than \$7.3 million from FY2016 to FY2017 (50 positions)
- Targeted more than \$80 million in support of the budget parameters (not including unfunded pension)
- Redirecting more than \$3.5 additional flexible and signature funds to the schools in support of school-based flexibility and autonomy
- Built in to the base budget a step increase, a 2% COLA for all teachers, a 1% COLA for all non-teaching employees, \$950,000 for pre-K teachers, and \$4 million to address pay parity

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## Found Efficiencies and Redundancies

SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES ...

The administration has identified more than \$15 million in additional reductions to the FY2017 request since the February Commission meetings. The CLL department budgets are cut by more \$7.3 million from FY2016 to FY2017. Nearly \$21 million has been identified for redistribution to Strategic Priorities including turnaround, compensation, and school flexibility.

Reduction in One-Time Expenditures	\$ (635,000)
Utilities and Fuel	\$ (900,000)
Operations and HR Contingencies	\$ (2,200,000)
Other Reductions to CLL Requests	\$ (11,300,000)
<b>Total Cuts</b>	<b>\$ (15,035,000)</b>
Vacancy Management 1% of salary budgets decreased as each vacancy takes at a minimum of 30 days to fill	\$ (3,300,000)
Targeted Budgeting for Benefit Costs	\$ (2,580,000)
<b>Total Refined Budget Strategy</b>	<b>\$ (5,880,000)</b>
<b>Total Reduction from Base Budget</b>	<b>\$ (20,915,000)</b>

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## I. Executive Session

- a. At 3:32 pm, on motion by Courtney English and seconded Byron Amos the Commission voted to enter into executive session to discuss personnel.



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## II. Big Bets Discussion

**Big Bet Ideas**
SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES ...

Big Ideas to Solve Longstanding APS Challenges	
<b>Turnaround</b>	The most intensive effort within the turnaround strategy targets the 15 lowest performing elementary schools. With additional funds we can scale up the "targeted support interventions" to support more turnaround schools.
<b>Additional Flex Per Pupil</b>	Additional flex per pupil funds will allow the resources for Principals to really be able to move their school in a new and unique direction, in alignment with our charter system status.
<b>Additional Cluster Funds</b>	A key component of our charter status is the alignment and strengthening of our clusters. Cluster Funds allow cluster-based planning, problem solving, and targeting efforts and resources to cluster specific challenges and strengths.
<b>Enhanced Art and Athletics Programs</b>	Athletics and the arts enrich the academic environment and are integral components of the APS community. Additional funds in these areas allows for more rich and robust programs including building a Pre-K to 12 <sup>th</sup> arts-integrated ecosystem to increase student achievement.
<b>Pay-Parity</b>	Pay-parity addresses the value of our current employees and is an important component of our talent strategy. <i>Moved to FY2017 base budget</i>

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**Big Bet Ideas, con't**
SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES ...

Big Ideas to Solve Longstanding APS Challenges	
<b>Educational Strategies to End Intergenerational Poverty</b>	See Sub-points below
Get APS Reading by 2nd/3rd Grade	The turnaround strategy will budget for a math specialist and reading specialist at 15 elementary schools in the targeted support tier. "Get APS Reading" would provide sufficient funding to ensure that the remaining elementary schools are able to have a reading specialist to deliver direct services to students.
Early Childhood	While early childhood for pre-K is addressed in our base-budget, with additional funds we could do much more to support and strengthen our programs and expand our impact to serve younger students (ages 0-4) through new early childhood centers.
Family Engagement	This strategy would commit additional resources to the development of a more comprehensive and integrated parental engagement approach that will result in empowering and equipping parents and caregivers to become more informed advocates for children.
Wrap-Around Services	Leveraging the research around "community schools", the District would invest in a comprehensive set of integrated services designed to better meet students' needs (e.g. in-school services such as childcare and or health clinics; extended learning hours; robust after-school programs; and programs for parents such as GED pathways, job training support, or mental health services).

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## III. Wrap-Up

### What's Next

SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES ...

- Special-Called Board Meeting- Wednesday, April 20, 2016
  - Tentative Adoption of the FY17 General Fund Budget
- Budget Commission Meeting- Thursday, April 28, 2016
  - Proposed FY17 Special Revenue Fund Budget
  - Adopted Capital Projects Budget
- Budget Commission Meeting- Wednesday, May 18, 2016
  - Multi-Year Budgeting
- Budget Commission Meeting- Thursday, June 9, 2016
  - Multi-Year Budgeting

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## IV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:00

Full presentations and materials from this meeting can be found at:  
<http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/48663>