

Budget Subcommittee Minutes

Wednesday, November 18th 2015

Called to order 4:30 pm.

Present:

SC: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Bill Hayner, Jennifer Susse

APS Staff: Kathleen Bodie, Paula Neville

Other: Richard Fanning (FinComm), Henry Brush (Arlington Youth Soccer)

No public participation.

Minutes of 10/21/2015 and 11/3/2015 approved 3-0.

Discussion of Peirce Field Fees:

Ms Neville presented a revised new fee schedule, attached. The revised analysis includes expectations of decreased custodial hours (because DPW will be doing part of the work), and increased expectations of adult and non-Arlington groups (obtained after examination of MUNIS data). The new fee for youth group users would be \$35/hr (vs \$50 in original proposal) plus additional \$50/hr for lights.

KAA reviewed Doug Heim's (Arlington Town Counsel) advice on fees:

- APS has a proprietary interest in fields, not a regulatory interest
- This means a greater range of what is chargeable against fees
- The purpose of the fees and the field monitor is to maintain the field in safest and cleanest operating condition for all users
- Fees are paid so that user has sole use of field for extended time, for large groups
- Although there are casual users at other times, they do not have sole use of field, nor do they get to use lights
- There is not distinction between school and town collection or use of revenue – for example, DPW costs (gray-billed or not) can legitimately be charged against users

The Budget subcommittee felt the new fee structure was more palatable but asked that it be used in a trial basis for approximately six months before finalizing it. Motion to recommend that the full School Committee approve the proposed fee structure passed 3-0.

Discussion: how to solicit public input on Budget?

Various methods were suggested. Decision was made to contact a few PTOs to see if they would be willing to host an informal budget presentation and question/suggestion session of about 30 min in length. An email account for budget will also be set up to accept comments.

5th grade science camp funding:

Dr Susse had further discussions with principals and administration about

funding of 5th grade science camps. The conflict is that the current method, funded mostly via PTOs, offers flexibility that an official APS funding system cannot. The flexibility is felt to be very important to the principals. At this point the feeling was to leave science camp funding as it is currently. It was clarified that PTOs never have access to names of students whom require help.

New Business:

Dr Bodie presented various financial projection tools that she and Diane Johnson are working on to try to better calculate the cost of enrollment increases. The subcommittee gave feedback and the information will be presented to the full Committee on Thursday by the administration.

Next meeting to be scheduled via Doodle.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirsi Allison-Ampe
Chair, Budget Subcommittee

Attachments:

- New proposed Peirce field fee structure

Minutes approved 12/7/15.