

ACE Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the Advisory Council for Education is to provide a systematic representative public involvement in educational decisions under consideration by the Board of Directors.

Dec. 7, 2020
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ali Amezcua, Sarah Blake, Sarah Cofer, Erika Coghill, Montan Copenhaver, Judy Fay, Kari Henderson-Burke, Stacy Jacobs, Britt Kleinman, Mary Levesque, Anne Mcalvey, Will Nelson, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Sophie Willis

Guests Present

Krissa Cramer

Call to order: 6:01 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Montan Copenhaver made a motion, seconded by Stacy Jacobs, to approve the Nov. 2 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Reopening Arlington Schools Update and Conversation

Dr. Sweeting provided a Reopening Arlington Schools Update to the committee as well as the board next steps. Snohomish Health District staff presented at the board meeting on Nov. 23.

We have to weigh the benefits and risks of in-person instruction:

Benefits:

- In-person learning is almost always best
- Provides better access
- Provides better support for academic and social/emotional needs

Risks

- Contact with people outside of household giving potential for increased transmission and health challenges
- Quarantine of staff and students for long periods of time if infected or a close contact

District Nurse, Krissa Cramer, talked about the health metrics and processes and procedures. She shared the current infection rate as well as multiple health factors. She also shared how to determine a close contact, communication after a positive case, and the differences between isolation and quarantine:

- Isolation is required for individuals that test positive for COVID-19 (POSITIVE = ISOLATE)
 - Isolate for 10 days after first symptoms
 - May end isolation if symptoms are resolving and no fever for > 24 hrs

- Quarantine is required for those that are determined Close Contacts of a COVID-19 positive individual (Close Contact = Quarantine)
 - Quarantine is a safety measure that helps to stop the spread of the virus
 - Lasts 14-24 days depending on the type of contact

Committee members asked the following questions:

- Can additional questions be added to the daily attestations such as if they've traveled? The travel advisory is a recommendation, not a mandate. Qualtrics provides this system for many school districts, they use the same questions. Can we change up our questions?
- For the number of positive cases in the county, is there a number we look at as to whether to move forward or not? Question was asked of Dr. Spitters. He could not answer a number. For him, it was more about if school are where COVID is being transmitted. He looks at hospital. Looking at other factors than just the number of positive cases.
- Five days of instruction vs. two days of instruction, live instruction vs. remote instruction, can this be added to the risk analysis?
- In K-1 Hybrid, if a student gets a positive and the teacher has to go home and quarantine, what happens to B class? Do you have to bring in subs? If a certain number of staff were out, if could shut down the class. How do we educate our subs about the protocols?
- Cases are more concentrated in bigger population cities. Arlington's numbers are going up but not at the same extent as bigger cities.
- How vaccine will affect future opening plans? Phase 1 is for health care workers, Phase 2 in the spring will be for educational people, vaccine not yet tested on children, no timeline yet for kids being vaccinated.
- Regarding containing the virus at school, what happens with the students when they take mask breaks? Students are six feet apart, plexiglass separate them. They're in cohorts at recess.
- If parents decide they're not going back to hybrid, how does this affect the budget? It would cost us to go to extra committed distance learning. We have 450 fewer kids than anticipated, about \$8 million less than expected, if more students choose to leave, that's more money that is lost.
- Are middle schools bringing kids back for sports? The focus has been on high school at this point.

Equity Conversation

Will shared a poem and breakout groups read through different parts of the book. The committee thought this was a really great opportunity to talk.

District Updates

- Dr. Sweeting encouraged committee members to enjoy the Flight music at AHS.

Next Meeting, Monday, Jan. 4, 2021