

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.

March 7, 2022
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Sarah Blake, Erika Coghill, Montan Copenhaver, Judy Fay, Morigan Havelly, Kerri Helgeson, Kari Henderson-Burke, Britt Kleinman, Mary Levesque, Karrie Marsh, Anne McAlvey, Kimberly Meno, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Sophie Willis

Guests Present

Brian Lewis, Brian Long

Call to Order

6:01 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Judy Fay made a motion, seconded by Kari Henderson-Burke, to approve the Feb. 7 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Career and College Readiness/CTE Overview

Director of Career and College Readiness, Brian Long, provided an overview of the program to the committee and talked about his areas of responsibility and the current offerings. One class he focused on was Family and Consumer Science. He talked about the investments in this program at the high school such as induction burners. There is a new STEM lab going in at the high school. There will be new 3D printers and a CNC machine.

Brian sends out a survey to students to know what CTE classes students want to take. This helps him to know how popular classes. There has to be a minimum of 15 students in a class to justify paying for a teacher for that class. There has to be a demand for classes that correlate to jobs in the local area. Certain classes that meet this criterial are American Sign Language, Criminal Justice, and Culinary Arts.

What about offering a class on fashion merchandising? Brian is trying to get it in the works but it can be challenging because students have to make a full garment which can be very challenging.

What about a personal finance class in high school? Brian said this type of class is not popular. It's hard to get students to engage in this type of class. This is the same for an environmental studies class. If there's a demand from students, he can make it happen.

Brian also oversees the counselors. The counselors are trying to address needs for mental health. Student support advocates have been hired through Snohomish County grant to help with this. They work with students and families to connect them with outside resources. They also conduct home visits. There are no mental health providers for students in Snohomish County. Brian could easily place 100 kids but only placed three. There is no space anywhere.

The counseling function is going to be shifting to a more student-focused model. The new counseling model is a 250 to 1 ratio for counselors. It will be hard to find counselors. Eighty percent of counselor will be working with students one on one. This encourages use of groups and counselors going into classrooms. This all has to be measurable and have an impact on students.

Universal Design for Learning Overview

Kari Henderson-Burke, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, talked about Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is an education framework that provides a flexible learning environment that accommodates individual learning differences. The District Leadership Team has been learning about UDL this year.

Kari had the ACE members read an article or watch a video about UDL to familiarize them with the concept. The idea is that there is not one size fits all for learning. One example from the reading is when building an airplane cockpit, you don't build it based on one body style. You build it so it can accommodate different body styles. This can be the same for teaching and learning. There is no such thing as a normal learning style. When student have to fit into an idea of average, it's damaging to the students.

Decarbonizing Article Discussion

Sarah Blake shared an inspiring TED Talk video with the committee members. After watching the video, it prompted the question as to what actions we can take as a school district to be greener. Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operation, said the district has taken steps to be greener. These are:

- The district invested in a wood chipper to help with wood waste. We can chip the material and use it for landscaping. This maintains plantings and recycles the wood chips.
- Brian is looking at upgrading our service vans to electric vans. This coincides with the evolution in electric vehicles. Ford has a vehicle that would meet our needs and it's electric powered. We need to replace eight vehicles. He is researching a financing method to purchase the vehicles.
- He is also looking at federal government grant money for replacing diesel buses with electric buses. He is exploring a grant application for those.
- Our levy funds are being used to upgrade control systems at one of our schools.

District/School Informational Update

Superintendent Sweeting provided several updates to the committee:

- The COVID numbers have dropped significantly in our district and county. We are implementing a Test to Stay Program. The mask mandate will be lifted on March 12.
- Education Support Professional Week is March 14-18
- Elementary Conferences will be held March 30-31 and April 1
- We are interviewing for several positions: AHS Principal, Haller Assistant Principal, Tech Director

2022-23 Meeting Schedule Adjustment

Due to conflicts with the board meetings and study sessions on Mondays, next year ACE will be held on the first Thursday of the month instead of the first Monday.

2022-23 Meeting on Zoom?

Dr. Sweeting asked if the committee would like to stay on Zoom next year? ACE members agreed with this.

Adjournment

Kimberly Meno made a motion, seconded by Anne McAlvey to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.