

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.

**Monday, Nov. 7, 2016
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Cathy Clark Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Members went around and introduced themselves to new member, Lisa Coghill.

Members Present

Linda Bollinger, Cathy Clark Smith, Lisa Coghill, Pedro Gonzales, Sheri Kelly, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Marcy Taylor

Members Absent

Lisa Bruce, Kathy Ehman, Therese Hering, Mary Levesque, Kimberly Meno, Casey Miller, Hanna Novoy, Mike Ray, Jenny Taylor

Approval of Minutes

There were not enough members to form a quorum so the minutes of the September, October and November meetings will be approved at the December meeting.

ADAC Presentation

Presenters: Mr. Will Nelson, Principal, Weston High School and Officer Stephanie Ambrose, Arlington Police Department

The Arlington Drug Awareness Coalition (ADAC) started in 2013. It's a coalition of people supported by Arlington Public Schools, Cascade Valley Hospital and the city of Arlington. The first ADAC presentation took place on March 26, 2014 at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center (BPAC) The purpose of the presentation was to let people know about the drug problem in Arlington and leave people with a sense of hope.

The "Beyond the Shadows" event was held Nov. 19, 2015. It included the mother of an addict who talked about her daughter's involvement with drugs. The presentation also included breakout sessions on drug recognition, the effects of drugs, community mentorship and interventions.

The "Spotlight on Be the Change" event was held September-October, 2016. The first event started with a community wide presentation. This was followed by presentations at the secondary schools. In order to keep students engaged, the sessions were interactive with the students. The following presentations took place:

- Presentation about drugs, drug effects and peer pressure;
- Students wore "drunk goggles" so they could see what it was like to be impaired and try to perform a simple task;
- A K-9 drug tracking dog demonstrated how it searches for drugs;

- The Arlington Fire Department brought their dummy to demonstrate what happens when someone overdoses on drugs; and
- Students broken into small groups with counselors so they could discuss the drug problems in more depth.

The Lakewood School District is very interested in what ADAC is doing but they're at a disadvantage since they have no city or hospital presence. They are looking to partner with ADAC.

Committee members asked if there is up-to-date information on the drug problem in the area. Mr. Nelson said that the Healthy Youth Survey is conducted every two years and provides trend data for an eight-year period.

Officer Ambrose said the middle school students seemed more receptive to the information than the high schoolers. In particular, sixth-graders were the most inquisitive and engaged during the presentations.

The next ADAC event "Hiding in Plain Sight" will be held Jan. 19 at Weston High School. This will be a dual event with a similar event being held at the same time in Lakewood.

In Fall 2017, there will be another event held. ADAC is trying to get a keynote speaker to draw people to the event. The Valley Hospital Foundation is giving ADAC a portion of their fundraiser this year.

Mr. Nelson said the underlying message in these presentations is always hope.

District Updates

Dr. Sweeting provided updates from the district:

- At the board study session on Friday, Nov. 4, Dr. Sweeting talked with the board about the direction of the ACE committee and how the ACE policy and procedure can be updated and combined into the existing "Citizen's Advisory Committees and Task Forces" policy and procedure. There will be a first reading of the revised policy and procedure on Monday, Nov. 14.
- Dr. Sweeting also talked with the board about having the ACE committee involved in reviewing and possibly updating the district's strategic plan. Dr. Sweeting would also like to invite higher education, business and city representatives to sit on the committee while the strategic plan is reviewed. If any changes are made to the strategic plan, the hope is the committee would make a recommendation to the board in May. The existing strategic plan is available at this link:

<http://www.asd.wednet.edu/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=13536008>

Sheri Kelly made a motion to adjourn and Sheri Kelly seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gary Sabol
Public Information Officer

Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.