

## 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, March 6, 2017  
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

### **Members Present**

Ed Aylesworth, Ryan Barci, Eric DeJong, Kathy Ehman, Jen Fuller, Ursula Ghirardo (board member), Mike Johnson, Sheri Kelly, Mary Levesque, Brian Lewis, Casey Miller, Will Nelson, Hanna Novy, Gary Sabol, Chryst Sweeting, Jenny Taylor, Marcy Taylor

### **Members Absent**

Maggie Bagwell, Linda Bollinger, Cathy Clark Smith, Lisa Coghill, Yvonne Gallardo, Pedro Gonzales, Kari Henderson-Burke, Dave McKeller, Kimberly Meno, Mike Ray, Nikki Starup, Matt Washburn

### **Approval of Minutes**

Jenny Taylor opened the meeting. Approval of the January and February minutes did not happen due to a lack of a quorum.

### **Legislative Updates**

Superintendent Sweeting talked about a Legislative conference that several administrators attended recently in Olympia. There were three main takeaways from the conference.

1. Education funding- Basic education funded by state. There's a plan from the Governor, a House plan and a Senate plan
2. Levy cliff- There is a sense of indifference about this among several legislators. It isn't necessarily viewed as a problem. If it stays in place, there will be a 1.8M hit against the district in 2017-18.
3. Facilities

### **School Board's Final Mission Recommendation**

Board member Ursula Ghirardo attended the meeting and provided an update. The board met for a special work session the previous week. During the work session, Shari Campbell presented some information about the mission statement. Ten different options were proposed and the board chose the top two. There was consensus around the top two and the board added a few words. The board agreed on the following mission:

*Arlington Public Schools educates all students, preparing and inspiring them to graduate and seek their full potential as lifelong learners.*

Members of the ACE Committee were supportive and pleased with the new mission statement.

## Survey Update

The survey was launched last Wednesday. The survey is on each school site and the district website. There were some ranking changes based on discussions during the last meeting. It was also translated into Spanish and Russian.

As of Monday, 11 people had taken the survey. The number one goal is student achievement. The second is creating a safe and caring environment. Gary Sabol will be sending an email out to all families. Ms. Campbell also encouraged committee members to send it out to any other groups they may belong to.

## District Goals

A fifth goal has been added: Family and Community Engagement. Ms. Campbell had the group review the wording of the goals and each table provided feedback.

### 1. Student Learning and Achievement

- They were fine with it. It offers a variety of learning for the different learners we have.
- There should be alignment between the District Improvement Plan and whatever we're doing, as long as there's alignment between buildings and district, all seven categories reflected in five.
- There were fine with it as well.

### 2. Safe and Caring Environment

- Should it be changed to safe and inclusive environment? We need to celebrate the diversity we have and we need to be protective of the diversity that's here.

### 3. Resource Stewardship

- Stewardship. Implies more than resources. Responsibility of all parties, students, parents, staff
- Resource Stewardship
- What does stewardship mean? Resource means people's time, likes putting them together. Resource Stewardship, Community entrusting us take care of the resources we have, implies caring.

### 4. Continuous Improvement

- Okay the way it is

### 5. Family and Community Engagement

- Family and community partnership- meeting of both parties
- Family and community involvement

## Goal Actions

Ms. Campbell had the groups come up with actions for each of the goals.

### 1. Student Learning and Achievement

- Continually assess strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum and instructional strategies and facilities (labs, CTE).
- Monitor and assess student mastery of standards objectives.
- Staff professional development aligned with identified needs based on student performance and staff need.
- Effectively engage students in the learning process through differentiating instruction based on learning needs.

### 2. Safe and Caring Environment

- Continually assess current facility needs for improvement and safety.

- Establish a positive school culture that addresses non-academic factors that impact student achievement, such as students' social, emotional and health needs.
- Address the identified areas in the Affirmative Action Report.

### 3. Resource Stewardship

- Future growth and property purchase (elementary)
- Transportation- Bus fleet
- Weston High School- Lease vs. own land
- Review utility usage- conduct a utility audit
- Human Resources- Audit staff resources

### 4. Continuous Improvement

- Review the capacity of buildings for staff- evaluations, professional growth, researched-based best practices
- Decision making via data and results
- Audit current resources and make sure we're maximizing current resources and how to adjust
- Reserve the right to respond to issues as needed
- Social/emotional mental health awareness/training for teachers and staff

### 5. Family and Community Engagement

- Communication to current families- More ways, more often. Texts, hard copy, newsletters, social media- use more effectively
- Volunteering- Opportunities, Welcoming- PTA and classrooms
- Involvement within schools outside of volunteering (committees)
- Outreach to non-school public
- Partnerships- local community, business groups, officials

#### **Next steps**

- May 19- bring draft plan to the board
- Fine tune the goals

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6 p.m.**