

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, June 5, 2017
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Members Present

Ed Aylesworth, Deb Borgens, Eric DeJong, Kathy Ehman, Ursula Ghirardo (board member), Sheri Kelly, Mary Levesque, Brian Lewis, Kimberly Meno, Casey Miller, Will Nelson, Mike Ray, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting

Members Absent

Maggie Bagwell, Ryan Barci, Linda Bollinger, Cathy Clark Smith, Lisa Coghill, Jen Fuller, Yvonne Gallardo, Pedro Gonzales, Kari Henderson-Burke, Mike Johnson, Dave McKeller, Hanna Novy, Nikki Starup, Matt Washburn, Marcy Taylor, Jenny Taylor

Guests Present

Shari Campbell

Call to Order

Mary Levesque called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Kim Meno made a motion to approve the April 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Sheri Kelly seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Sheri Kelly made a motion to approve the May 1, 2017 meeting minutes. Mike Ray seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent Kathy Ehman provided information on school discipline with the committee. She reviewed the number of out-of-schools suspensions and emergency expulsions at each school and what prompted those suspensions and/or expulsions.

The goal of the district is to try and reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions. She referenced a report "Reclaiming Students" which focuses on the educational and economic costs of exclusionary discipline in Washington state. Exclusionary discipline includes suspension, emergency expulsion or expulsion that removes a student from the school setting. This is often accompanied by a lack of educational services during the duration of the exclusion. There were five findings in the report:

1. Exclusionary discipline negatively impacted academic success and a student's relationship with the educational system.

2. The vast majority of disciplined students did not receive educational services for the duration of their exclusion.
3. Exclusionary discipline practices disproportionately impacted students of color and youth living in poverty.
4. Reliance on exclusionary discipline practices varied significantly from district to district, even among districts with similar demographic characteristics.
5. Discipline data yielded only a partial picture of the number of students impacted by exclusionary practices each year in Washington public schools.

The report recommendations coincide with new legislation in Washington state. The recommendations are:

- Reduce the use of out-of-school exclusions.
- Require school districts to provide access to educational services during periods of exclusionary discipline.
- Ensure that no student is subject to indefinite exclusion.
- Support a reduction in the disproportionate impact of exclusionary discipline on students of color.
- Require school districts to retrieve excluded students and re-engage them in education.

The law also states that there needs to be a re-engagement plan and meeting with the student and family. The district must: Annually disseminate discipline policies and procedures to students, families and the community; Monitor the impact of discipline policies and procedures using disaggregated data; and periodically review and update discipline rules, policies and procedures in consultation with staff, students, families and the community.

Kathy said this coincides with the Open Doors re-engagement program that is being started next school year. Weston High School Principal, Will Nelson, explained that they used restorative justice practices at Weston this year which reduced the number of suspensions and expulsions.

Facilities Update

Executive Director of Operations, Brian Lewis, provided an update on the status of the facilities in Arlington Public Schools. A Facility Advisory Committee has been formed to review any pre-bond planning activities. A symposium was held on May 30 to discuss some of the activities included a proposed bond to replace Post Middle School. Brian invited the committee to complete a pre-bond planning survey which is located on the front of the district website.

Brian also discussed an initiative he started this school year called "Arlington Ready." The initiative is designed to:

- Improve the function, safety, and appearance of district buildings and grounds using available resources
- Inform staff about the district's school buildings and support facilities
- Promote staff understanding about the district's future building needs and plans
- Researchers have found a direct relationship between facilities conditions (cleanliness and systems functions) and academic achievement

Brian discussed some of the activities including: removing damaged barbed wire from perimeter of Haller stadium field; trimming plantings to reduce cover and improve sight lines; placing identifying numbers in exterior and interior of every room for responding to emergencies; and hiring temporary grounds staff to clean exterior surfaces and prepare for summer painting. He also showed picture of these activities to the committee members.

Proposed Strategic Plan

Chrys Sweeting and Shari Campbell shared the proposed strategic plan with committee members:

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

Motto- Educate ● Prepare ● Inspire

Goals-

Student Learning & Achievement

Students will engage in learning that's rigorous, research-based and focused on successful grade transitions leading to graduation and further pursuits.

- Implement best teaching practice and technology across each grade and course.
- Engage students in research-based, challenging and aligned curriculum that addresses diverse learning styles and abilities.
- Engage staff in professional learning communities to achieve better results for the students they serve.
- Provide targeted, job-embedded professional development that advances instructional practices while meeting students' needs.
- Identify areas of improvement based on data.

Safe and Caring Environment

We will cultivate and maintain a safe and caring learning and working environment to support a positive culture to increase student achievement

- Enhance safety and security for student, staff and community.
- Foster a culture that supports the academic, behavioral, social and emotional health needs of every student.
- Model respectful conduct and civility.
- Regularly assess facilities for the ability to safely provide educational services.
- Cultivate an environment where diversity is valued and respected.
- Provide professional development for all staff around welcoming schools and customer service.

Resource Stewardship

We will align all resources (people, time, money and property) to support the District's mission.

- Effectively and efficiently allocate resources to maximize student learning.
- Maintain, improve and replace buildings and equipment.
- Invest community resources prudently.
- Share responsibility among students, staff and community for the care of district equipment and facilities.
- Recruit, hire, motivate and retain a high quality, professional and diverse teaching and support staff.

Parent & Community Partnerships

We will engage and encourage parents and our community to partner in the education of students.

- Effectively and efficiently allocate resources to maximize student learning.
- Maintain, improve and replace buildings and equipment.
- Invest community resources prudently.
- Share responsibility among students, staff and community for the care of district equipment and facilities.
- Recruit, hire, motivate and retain a high quality, professional and diverse teaching and support staff.

Shari also showed the proposed new logo to the committee.

Proposed ACE Meeting Schedule for 2017-18

Gary Sabol handed out copies of the proposed of the proposed 2017-18 meeting calendar to the committee members.

Updates

Mike Ray shared that he has a new job and won't be able to attend future ACE meeting. Chrys Sweeting thanked him for his years of service.

Kim Meno made a motion to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017 at 6 p.m.