

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

### **Call to order**

Mary Levesque called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **Members Present**

Maggie Bagwell, Arianne Blackburn, Sarah Blake, Pedro Gonzales, Sheri Kelly, Mary Levesque, Kimberly Meno, Hanna Novy, Gary Sabol, Jomo Simpkins, Chrys Sweeting

### **Members Absent**

Ryan Barci, Linda Bollinger, Lisa Coghill, Kathy Ehman, Jen Fuller, Yvonne Gallardo, Cindy Glunt, Jillian Gooding, Natalie Hollifield, Casey Miller, Matt Washburn

### **Guests Present**

Stephanie Ambrose, Will Nelson

### **Approve minutes**

Hanna Novy made a motion to approve the Oct. 2 minutes. Sheri Kelly seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **District Updates**

Dr. Sweeting provided the following updates:

- The "Know our Schools" tour takes place next Wednesday, Nov. 15. The committee asked if next year's invitations could be translated so more community members could be invited to attend.
- *The Foreigner* play at AHS took place Nov. 3-4. It will also run Nov. 10-11.
- In December, Gary Howard will be in the district. He has worked in the field of diversity for 40 years. He was a teacher in the district in 1976 and his children graduated from our schools. There's a need to increase diversity in the district. He'll work with the district leadership team first. Then he'll work with the school board. This will help us map out a plan for the future.

### **Drug Awareness Presentation**

Arlington Police Officer, Stephanie Ambrose, and Weston High School Principal, Will Nelson, provided the committee with a drug awareness presentation.

Mr. Nelson talked about the Arlington Drug Awareness Coalition (ADAC). The coalition provides awareness and education presentations to the community. They are trying to bring hope to those who are drug afflicted,

The Arlington Police Department gave drug awareness presentations to Arlington High School staff several years ago. Officer Ambrose said this opened up the staff's eyes about the problem. ADAC was formed from these initial presentations. Since then, several presentations have been given to staff, parents and secondary students:

- *Out of the shadows*- Previous addicts talked about addiction and its impact.
- *Beyond the shadows*- This presentation provided further education on how drug use affects families.

- *Spotlight on be the Change*- Arlington Police and Fire held demonstrations at AHS on the impact of drugs. Counselors were also involved in this presentation to secondary students.
- Tony Hoffman- This fall, former addict Tony Hoffman presented to secondary students. He talked about how anyone can find themselves addicted to drugs. He was a great storyteller and the students could really relate to him. He had to change everything about himself. He used drugs as a coping mechanism to deal with depression and anxiety. He talked about the need to try and stop this cycle and educate students not to take drugs. He gave some great examples during his presentation.

Nelson and Ambrose wanted to know how ADAC can help more in the community:

- Need to have more parents involved, how do you reach parents?
- Where does ADAC funding come from? ADAC has received money from the police guild and fire guild, Christmas Tree auction, hospital and Arlington Community Chest. It cost \$7,000 to bring Tony in. He had a great social media response and many students followed him.
- What do people use? What do these drug do?
- Legalized marijuana- What message does this send to kids? Kids think it's safe. It creates a great platform for Officer Ambrose to talk with kids about drugs. She talks about the difference in marijuana.
- Stay out of Designated Area (SODA) zone, Arlington has a drug problem, not a transient problem.
- Depression and anxiety- Is there some event for people to talk about depression, anxiety and mental health?
- Marijuana operations could help pay for drug awareness events.
- They're seeing problems in younger kids, seeing different behaviors.
- Healthy Youth Survey- There is a trend for younger students to be drug involved at a younger age
- Mental Health- showing up in younger children, anxiety and depression is becoming more normal, can turn to drug abuse. Can we target this? Need to treat the mental illness. Educational program for teachers. District addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in students.
- Another training tomorrow night for ACES- staff learning about awareness and specific strategies to deal with students with ACES.
- District could partner with mental health agencies.
- Advertisements of drug products. Why are we not up in arms about this?
- Counseling opportunities
- List of resources for students.
- Hotline for students to call? There are text lines as well. These can be promoted among students.

### **Equity Activity**

Equity and cultural competence. Think about yourself. Think about your own kids. What are door openers and what are door closers? Dr. Sweeting gave some examples.

In our schools, what have you heard or seen that are door openers or door closers? Be thinking about this for the next meeting. Cultural destructiveness or cultural proficiency?

Kimberly Meno made a motion to adjourn and Sheri Kelly seconded the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 4**