

**Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee
Minutes
November 19, 2019**

Members Present:

Nadia Facey (Chair), Margy Dunn (Co-secretary), David Rosenblatt (Co-secretary), Nick Walkosak (Vice Chair), Wendy Pizer (Past Chair), Amber Baum, Michele Best, Keith Chanon, Kristin Gillig, Matt Leland, Ella Robertson (Yorktown Student), Sonia Rosen, Kurt Schuler, Symone Walker, Tauna Szymanski, Cristina Yacobucci

Members Absent:

Caitlin Davies (Teacher Member), Jennifer Johnson, Jay Hamon Paul Timm and Minerva Trudo,

Staff:

Dr. Kelly Krug (Director of Special Education – Elementary)
Heather Rothenbuescher (Director of Special Education – Secondary)
Kathleen Donovan (Parent Resource Center)

Guests:

Kathy Pericak (Yorktown/HB parent), Kathryn Linehan (HB/Tuckahoe Parent), Natalie Goldring (ACI liaison), David Siu (HB, Tuckahoe parent), Caroline Levy, Jennifer Beytin, Erin Smith

AGENDA:

Agenda Items	Discussion/Decisions	What to do/who/when
Welcome		
7:05PM Nadia Facey	Welcome and introductions	
Public Comments		
	No public comments were offered this month.	
Kelly Krug, Heather Rothenbuescher – Office of Special Education Updates		
7:10	<p>Response to prior public comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation system at Fleet – discussions with family have proceeded. Training and communication with staff. Everyone is OK with the shelter-in-place plan at this point. Zach Pope is working with the Facilities team to explore more proactive evacuation planning as part of the capital planning process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question from Nadia Facey – is APS approaching this as a systemwide issue? Answer from Dr. Krug: This is still a work in progress. Families who have concerns should reach out to Zach Pope and also OSE leadership. • Playground Accessibility for Fleet – OSE put in a request for the Fleet playground to look at the playground again and find budget/timeline for making the playground accessible. Need to make a proactive plan for accessibility to be built into the planning process. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion – what is the current process? Very unclear who is responsible. Shouldn't this be built into the contracts with the architects? ○ Dr. Krug suggests that ASEAC could invite Mr. Chambers from capital department to a future meeting for further discussion. ● Instructional Studies – draft guidelines and best practices for discussing IEPs with students. A letter would go home to families to make them aware of activities involving IEP discussion. Waiver for students to respect confidentiality. This process has involved parent input. This process has brought up some broader questions about instructional studies and how to improve instruction across APS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion – When would the letter to parents go home? Could this be over the summer so families have time to process it? Is this really an appropriate activity, or a can of worms? ○ Dr. Krug – we need to craft the description better, make clear to families what's happening and provide clear opt-out. Need to standardize resources for instructional studies and provide support during pre-service week to train IS teachers. ○ Kathleen Donovan – Need more support for executive function and self-advocacy, supported by research on best practices in this area. ○ Tauna Szymanski – include VDOE I'm Determined curriculum as support for self-advocacy. ○ Nick Walkosak – what's the grade level that this activity will be offered? Answer – Dr. Krug – to be determined, need more input. ● Medical Information on Gen Ed Bus – lack of information sharing with bus drivers and aides. Transportation department says that this is a confidentiality issue and that parents are free to disclose confidential information on their own. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion – Wendy Pizer – this is very concerning. Transportation is a related service provider and should be part of the IEP team and have access to all relevant medical need issues. Janna Dressel – this is a conversation we've been having with transportation for the two years, but we're not seeing any progress. ○ Suggestion – bring transportation leaders from Fairfax, who are doing this already. How to engage transportation leaders, school health. ○ Question – are there EPI pens on buses? Answer – not standard. 	
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OSE Updates

7:47PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB work session on PCG evaluation. ● Completed interviews for Shriver program principal, should hear announcement soon. 	
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APS HR – Erin Wales-Smith, Director of Talent Acquisition and Management

7:48p	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New position, came out of a study done by the assistant Chief Diversity Officer for George Mason. That study included a recommendation for this position. ○ Reports directly to the superintendent, sits on the executive leadership team ○ Leads district-wide initiatives that prioritize diversity, inclusion and equity ○ Develop APS diversity, inclusion and equity plan ○ Provide training and support to all staff, including administrators - Questions/Comments 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nadia Facey – this is an incredibly tall order with an umbrella responsibility. Does this person have authority to move things forward in a meaningful way? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Wales-Smith – putting this position on the ELT is meant to take some of the siloed work to try to systematize equity work across APS. ○ Janna Dressel – at October CCPTA meeting, we were told stakeholders were involved in designing the job descriptions, but none of us were (ASEAC, SEPTA, CCPTA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Wales-Smith – I can certainly find out which stakeholder groups were consulted. ○ Symone Walker – NAACP Education Committee, Black Parents of Arlington, Arlington Partnership for Children and Families wrote to express concerns about the job description and the process. No hiring firm is being used, even though hiring firms are being used for other executive level positions. Asked that APS pull it back and develop this more. ○ Nadia Facey – what about re-advertising the position if the candidates we have are not the right fit for the position. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Wales-Smith – this will be an arduous process. Candidates will go through many committees – not unheard of to have 3-6 committees involved. Many stakeholder groups involved, many rounds. ○ Question – is this a position with authority, or a recommending position? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Wales Smith – happy to take that as feedback ○ Ms. Wales Smith – this is a big lift and there is a lot of urgency from leadership and the school board to get the work started. 	
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ASEAC Updates

8:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve October Minutes - Principal of Shriver program has been announced, Shana Curtis, currently AP at Gunston - Policy Update (Nick Walkosak) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Made the policy more consistent with the concept of equity throughout ○ Wrote a paragraph on guiding principles ○ Re-wrote the curriculum paragraph, added inclusive teaching practices at Dr. Krug's suggestion. ○ Provided a list of questions for APS regarding the policy ○ Spoke with Nancy Van Doren and Rebecca Hunter from ACI last week at the school board work session. Nancy is seeking to get the entire procedure for policy review written down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Symone Walker – APS policies have overview, PIP, often a policy implementation guide. We don't have any of that in this case. We are spinning wheels reviewing this high-level document without a vision of the PIP. Also, Arlington County has its own equity policy – is this aligned with the School Board's version? There needs to be some coming together. ○ Nick – APS doesn't write the PIP until the SB has voted on the policy ○ Natalie Goldring – really important to have this clear process in place and to have revision built-in. - ACI Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACI recommendation doesn't come until fall 2020, but work session at SB with ASEAC presentation in January. ○ Proposal from Nadia – top five for January, top two for Spring 2020. 	12-0
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do we want to do broad, over-arching recommendations, or things that are more specific and fine-grained? ○ Sonia Rosen – how do we balance the needs of different groups? ○ Keith Chanon – can we tailor our recommendations to intersect with the evaluation? ○ Dr. Krug – OSE made a request to hire PCG to develop a 3-5 year action plan by February, because OSE doesn't have the capacity to develop this given current staffing. Also asked for quarterly meetings over the next five years to keep on track with monitoring. One of the biggest core strategic goals is the inclusion goal of 80% in gen ed, many other goals can be driven by that. ○ Wendy Pizer – the school board has asked for help to prioritize the recommendations of the program evaluations – maybe top ten? ○ Natalie Goldring – ACI tends to prioritize things that are easier to measure, easier to fund, importance of thinking strategically. ○ Amber Baum – can we add value and context? ○ Nadia Facey – I'm hearing that we have two things we should be doing as a committee – come up with ACI recommendations, and also come up with a set of recommendations connected to the program evaluation. 	
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm	

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Syphax Education Center, 2110 Washington Blvd, Room 456, Arlington, VA 22204