

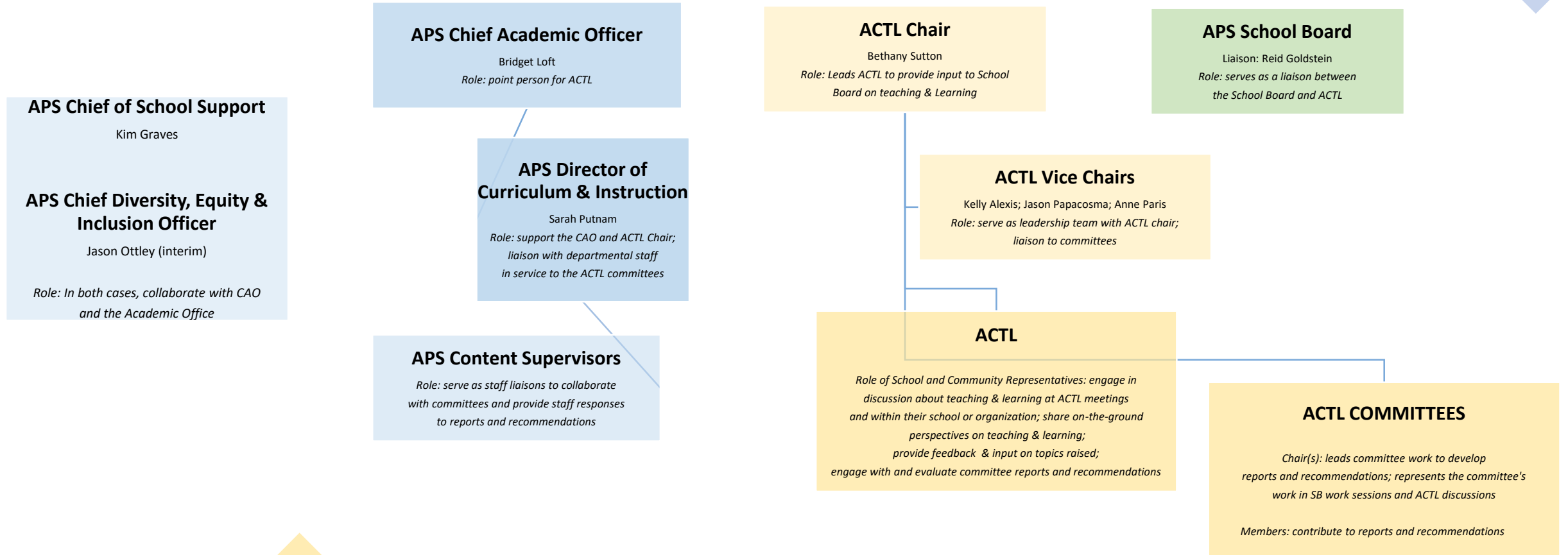


**Arlington
Public
Schools**

ACTL 101

September 20, 2021

Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning Organizational Chart



Who/what is ACTL?

- The Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning is made up of representatives from each school and some community organizations to assist in reviewing system-wide curricula and instructional programs and in development recommendations for improvement.
- ACTL helps bring parent and community voices to the table to share valuable input to the School Board, Superintendent, Office of Academics, and Office of School Support about student learning and educational outcomes.
- ACTL is a forum for broad input and discussion of ideas. We strive to create space for learning more about APS priorities and initiatives—broadening the range of well-informed parents—while also surfacing ideas and concerns from school communities.
- ACTL is made up of more than 50 individuals who are familiar with or interested in teaching & learning within APS
 - 1 representative from each of the elementary schools; 2 representatives from each of the middle schools; 2 representatives from each of the high schools; 2 representatives from HB Woodlawn (1 middle school; 1 high school); 1 representative from each of the other programs; 11 representatives from community or affiliated organizations
- ACTL includes 13 affiliated committees, focused on particular areas of teaching & learning, who engage with the School Board and report up through ACTL annually.

What are the ACTL Committees?

Committee	Chair / Co- or Vice Chair	Staff Liaison(s)
Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee	David Rosenblatt	Kelly Krug; Heather Rothenbuescher
Arts Education	Susan Scott / Hanna Eun	Pam Farrell
Career, Technical, and Adult Education	Dan Marschall / Rosie O'Neil	Kris Martini
Early Childhood Education	Meredith Jaeckel	Elaine Perkins
English Language Arts	Kate Merrill / Sherrice Kerns	Lori Silver – Secondary ELA, Sarah Cruz – Elementary ELA
English Learners	Jared Peet	Terri Murphy
Gifted Services	Greg Eastman / Carlisle Levine	Cheryl McCullough
Mathematics	Rachel Carrig	Shannan Ellis
Science	Melody Mobley	Dat Le
School Health Advisory Board	Dana Carr / Vell Rives	Debbie DeFranco
Social Studies	Caroline Rogus	Kerri Hirsch
Student Services	Adora Williams / Alisa Cowen	Laura Newton
World Languages	Adrienne McQuillan / Rick Jackson	Elisabeth Harrington




What is the relationship between ACTL and the committees?

Each year, the committees do deep and meaningful work to explore their areas of focus in detail and to develop recommendations for improvement;

They discuss those recommendations directly with the School Board in open work sessions (Nov 9 and Jan 13);


Committee chairs or their designees often attend ACTL meetings and contribute to the discussion of topics in that setting;

Per policy, the committees report to ACTL, so they also bring their recommendations to ACTL for discussion and the ACTL representatives assess the rationale and recommendations being made by the committees. Toward the end of the academic year, the committee reports are formally submitted to the School Board from ACTL.

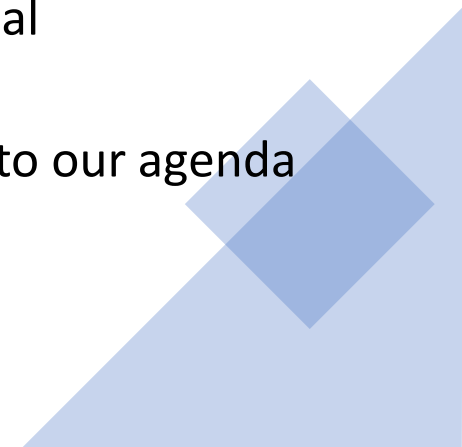


ACTL
contributes to
a cycle of
continuous
improvement
within APS





What are your responsibilities as a school or community organization representative?

- Get to know the teaching & learning context of your school or community
 - Actively seek out diverse perspectives; engage with others who may experience things differently
 - Ask:
 - how are students doing with accessing content, activities, and opportunities for learning?
 - how are students doing with different subject areas?
 - are all students being supported in their academic, social, and emotional development?
 - And ask specific questions related to our agenda areas
- 

ACTL Rep Role continued... explore resources



VIEW YOUR SCHOOL REPORT CARD
AND BE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS
GOING ON AT YOUR SCHOOL.



LEARN MORE ABOUT PROGRAM
EVALUATIONS AND THE YOUR
VOICE MATTERS SURVEY:
[HTTPS://WWW.APSVA.US/PLANNIN
G-AND-EVALUATION/EVALUATION/](https://www.apsva.us/planning-and-evaluation/evaluation/)



EXPLORE THE SCHOOL OVERVIEWS
INFORMATION:
[HTTPS://WWW.APSVA.US/SCHOOL-
OVERVIEWS/](https://www.apsva.us/school-overviews/) AND SCHOOL
MANAGEMENT PLAN:
[HTTPS://WWW.APSVA.US/SCHOOL-
LOCATIONS/SCHOOL-
MANAGEMENT-PLANS/](https://www.apsva.us/school-locations/school-management-plans/)



ASK QUESTIONS AND SEE WHAT
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE!

ACTL Rep Role continued... 3 Critical Lenses

1. The [APS Strategic Plan Goals and Mission, Vision & Core Values](#)

Mission: To ensure all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments

Vision: To be an inclusive community that empowers all students to foster their dreams, explore their possibilities, and create their futures

Core Values: Excellence; Equity; Inclusivity; Integrity; Collaboration; Innovation; Stewardship

2. The School Board Priorities, 2021-22

Ensure student well-being and academic progress

- o Identify, report, and address all students' social-emotional and academic needs
- o Focus on literacy and math

Advance 2018-24 Strategic Plan goals with focus on innovation and equity

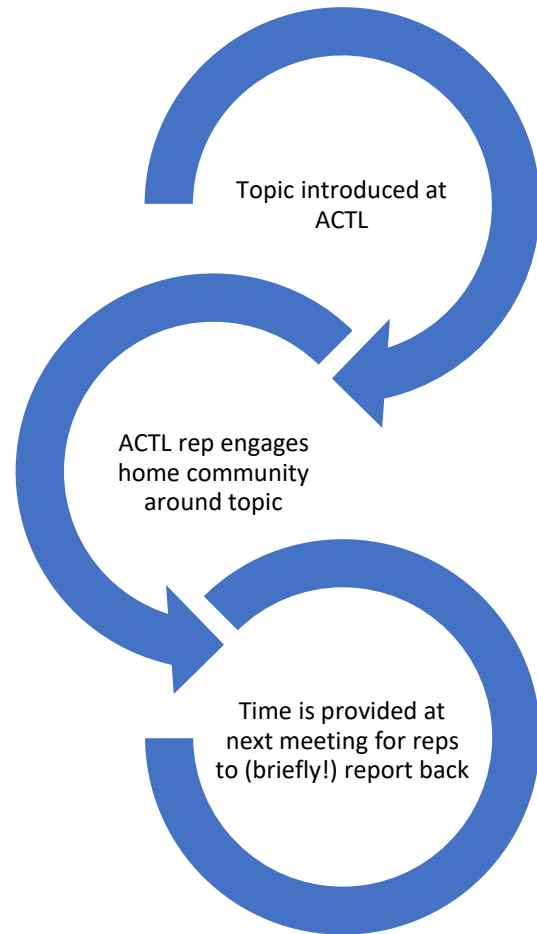
Recruit, hire, and invest in a high-quality and diverse workforce to ensure APS is the place where talented individuals choose to work

- o Develop phased plan to ensure all salary scales and benefits are market competitive and sustainable
- o Establish plan and timeline to begin the collective bargaining process

Improve operational efficiency

- o Strengthen and improve system-wide operations with focus on financial sustainability
- o Collaborate across departments to plan innovatively, cost effectively, and within budget to meet student seat needs

3. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion -- improve and implement equitable learning environments for all students
(Read the [APS Equity Policy](#))



How ACTL Can Engage around Critical Topics

What we will do:

- Provide information about key topics
- Allow time for Q&A on each topic
- Bring appropriate staff into the room
- Listen for emerging themes, areas of concern, potential solutions

What you will do:

- Ask thoughtful questions; seek more information; assume good intention
- Engage with your community to learn more
- Participate in bringing summary input back to the conversation

How can you learn more and engage with your school or community?


- Ask the PTA for a dedicated time slot on each meeting agenda to share what you are hearing at ACTL and ask questions related to our agenda areas;
- Or - develop a small focus group or committee of diverse individuals who are willing to engage with you on a regular basis – in conversations or electronically – to provide feedback on teaching & learning;
- Use short/informal surveys with your school or community to solicit feedback;
- Visit parent groups like the Club de Madres & Padres to discuss teaching & learning topics.

Above all – please seek out a variety of individuals/groups so that we continually are bringing multiple voices and diverse perspectives into our conversations.





Expectations for Engagement in ACTL Meetings

- Attend meetings regularly; be punctual and prepared;
 - Support each other by actively listening and staying engaged, with camera on if possible;
 - Honor the agenda—raise other topics with the chair for consideration at another time;
 - Promote a culture of inquiry and an orientation toward finding solutions and offering ideas;
 - Discuss ideas & issues, not people;
 - Be respectful in what you say and how you say it;
 - Share using full information – avoid acronyms, first names, insider-speak;
 - Use the chat for questions and sharing resources but not for sidebar conversations.
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Meeting Dates & Logistics

September 20

October 6

November 3

December 8

January 12

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82598166707>

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Staff Liaison to ACTL from the Academics Office



Stay in
touch!

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