

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 Work Session #2 with the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL)  
 January 13, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:31 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
 Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair  
 Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member  
 Monique O’Grady, Member  
 David Priddy, Member  
 Claudia Mercado, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
 Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support  
 Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer  
 Sarah Putman, Director, Curriculum and Instruction  
 Bethany Sutton, Chair, ACTL  
 David Rosenblatt, Chair, Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee  
 Symone Walker, Vice Chair, Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee  
 Jared Peet, Chair, English Learners Advisory Committee  
 Rachel Carrig, Chair, Math Advisory Committee  
 Caroline Rogus, Chair, Social Studies Advisory Committee  
 Alisa Cowen, Co-Chair, Student Services Advisory Committee  
 Adora Williams, Co-Chair, Student Services Advisory Committee  
 Adrienne McQuillan, World Languages Advisory Committee  
 Elisabeth Harrington, Supervisor, World Languages Advisory Committee  
 Kerri Hirsch, Supervisor, Social Studies  
 Sam Klein, Supervisor, English Learners  
 Kelly Krug, Director of Elementary Special Education  
 Heather Rothenbuescher, Director of Secondary Special Education

Appointments to the Arlington Career Center Expansion Building Level Planning Committee

*Mr. Priddy moved that the Board approve the Membership appointments for the Arlington Career Center Expansion Building Level Planning Committee, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.*

Dr. Kanninen called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5-0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye

Work Session #2 with the Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning

Dr. Kanninen provided introductory remarks and reviewed the structure of the work session. Dr. Durán and Mr. Goldstein thanked Ms. Sutton for her leadership as the ACTL chair and they expressed their appreciation for Ms. Putman and the staff liaisons for their work with the advisory committees. Dr. Durán noted that ACTL would present a final report to the Board that will include staff feedback at a regular Board meeting in June. Ms. Sutton applauded the collective volunteer work of ACTL chairs and members to provide actionable recommendations that are sensitive to the budget and other considerations.

Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee

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<sup>1</sup>The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings.

Mr. Rosenblatt and Ms. Walker presented the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Staff for Inclusion by Reforming Budget Planning Factors

Recommendation #2: Proactively Monitor and Invest in Pandemic Recovery Supports for Students with Disabilities

Ms. Diaz-Torres inquired about the planning factors working group. Ms. Krug explained that because of staffing, there wasn't enough personnel to fully support special education students in general courses, therefore after careful analysis, a proposal was created to appropriately allocate staffing that may result in a phased-in initiative with budgetary implications. Dr. Durán acknowledged the proposal and committed to addressing the allocation disparity and focusing on inclusion, noting that the planning factors have not been addressed since the late 1980s. Ms. Rothenbuescher spoke about recovery services opportunities and the review of the data from the Virginia Department of Education to effectively support students in different ways.

#### English Learners Advisory Committee

Mr. Peet presented the following three recommendations:

Topic Area #1: Strengthen Tier 1 instruction through professional development for all educators, based on the recommendations from the WestEd Program Evaluation, that will work to increase academic rigor, sustained quality interactions, and purposeful language practices in all classrooms

Topic Area #2: Continue professional learning for Bilingual Family Liaisons as it relates to family needs during the pandemic

Topic Area #3: Streamline, consolidate, and enhance information flows to EL families with the end goal of empowering them to make informed decision about their students' education. Related to this is a desire by some EL parents to see an overall improvement in APS staff cultural competencies that encourage EL families to engage in their students' education process

Mr. Goldstein inquired about professional learning and Ms. Diaz-Torres wondered if there was a cohesive plan between the Bilingual Family Liaisons and Family and Community Engagement (FACE) office. Mr. Klein spoke about opportunities to engage parents in different languages and the use of outside vendors to expand learning opportunities. He also explained about the collaboration between the Bilingual Family Liaisons and Family and Community Engagement (FACE) office to ensure parents are informed, engaged, and have the opportunity to learn about the school system. Furthermore, Mr. Priddy expressed his concern about the workload placed on Bilingual Family Liaisons and if there is a need to increase these positions.

#### Math Advisory Committee

Ms. Carrig presented the following two recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Complete the K-12 full textbook/instructional resource adoption using the \$3.2 million ARPA ESSER III Funds to provide essential textbooks and instructional materials for all students and specialized resources to help combat learning loss from COVID and close achievement gaps.

Recommendation #2: Implement a permanent 2.0 FTE allocation for Mathematics Coaches and 2.0 FTE allocation for Mathematics Interventionists at each school (elementary through high school) so that mathematics resources are on par with English Language Arts resources

Dr. Durán noted that the recommendations would be funded with FY 2021 closeout funds. Ms. Kadera questioned how the committee envisioned the rollout of recommendation #2 and Ms. Carrig explained that it would be a staggered rollout focusing on the areas with the highest learning loss. The Board briefly conversed about if the committee has begun conversations about future needs, resource adoption and technology.

#### Social Studies Advisory Committee

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Ms. Rogus spoke about the following recommendation:

Recommendation #1: Increase the amount of Social Studies instruction at the elementary level.

The Board discussed integrating Social Studies to improve literacy, finding opportunities for interdisciplinary integration, and the benefits of Social Studies performance assessments.

#### Student Services Advisory Committee

Ms. Cowen and Ms. Williams presented the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Conduct a full program evaluation of the APS Student Services Department programs and services relating to the implementation of social and emotional learning (SEL) programs and the tiered system of support.

Recommendation #2: Formally adopt Virginia Department of Education standards and new guidelines around the delivery and management of SEL within APS

Recommendation #3: Address student sources of stress, trauma, and other challenges to student mental wellbeing.

Recommendation #4: Adjust staffing of school psychologists and social workers to allow for one full time psychologist and one full time social worker assigned to each elementary, middle, high, and alternative program school.

Dr. Kanninen began the discussion by affirming that student's socio-emotional wellbeing is a top priority and Mr. Priddy suggested a meeting solely devoted to this topic. They then discussed defining SEL in terms of evaluating programs.

#### World Languages Advisory Committee

Ms. McQuillan shared the following recommendations:

Topic Area #1: Dual Language Instruction at APS (Recommendation: adoption of the Task Force recommendations.)

Topic Area #2: Spanish for Fluent Speakers Curriculum and Resources (Recommendation: additional time for a curriculum writing team to complete SFS 1 curriculum, purchase additional readers for all levels, and provide professional learning in the area of literacy to teachers of SFS.)

Topic Area #3: Professional Learning for ASL Teachers (Recommendation: support the new team of ASL teachers with professional learning in the new VDOE Standards of Learning for ASL and provide additional time for curriculum writing.)

The Board discussed resources for Spanish fluent speakers, curriculum development, and course offerings at the Career Center.

Ms. Sutton thanked the Board for the opportunity to address the Board with recommendations. She explained that ACTL also has an arts committee but did not present this year because the committee is undergoing leadership change and a reorganization. Ms. Sutton also explained that ACTL would work to create a summary of recommendations and their status for the past three years, replicating the valuable effort done in June of 2019, as a long-term benchmark and accountability mechanism. She also spoke about her engagement in the revision of the advisory committee School Board Policy and Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) to better operationalize ACTL and encourage cross-committee collaboration. Dr. Kanninen explained that although the ACTL recommendations are informative, it takes time and many discussions across departments before they are included in the budget. Dr. Durán appreciated learning about the 2019 summary and highlighted the importance of holding one another accountable on the recommendations presented as they focus on the Strategic Plan.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board

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