

Advisory Committee on Teaching and Learning (ACTL)

Minutes

Syphax Building, rooms 254/256/258

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Present: Jenny Roahen Rizzo, Anne Paris, Heidi Gibson, Mark Blacknell, Katie Cochran, Chris Woolfe, Gretchen Hickey, Matt Malloy, Michael Cieslak, Emily Chua, Jocelyn Gould, Kate McKenney, Sarah Evans, Tia Alfred, Octavia Johnson, Janet Sater, Greg Eastman, Carlisle Levine, Gerald Mann, Cheryl McCullough

Attending via Teams: Eileen Morrell, Jimisha Relerford, Ginnie Gordon, Sheila Leonard, Maggie Slye, Lindsay Duch, Miles Mason, Marguerite Williams

7:00 pm, Welcome/approve minutes from Feb meeting (Jenny Roahen Rizzo)

7:05, Breakout groups discuss feedback from communities on English Language Arts (from December 2022 meeting)

Attendees split into two groups, one focusing on Elementary Schools and one focusing on Middle and High Schools, and discussed feedback on ELA instruction from their communities. Teams participants also shared feedback with Anne Paris.

7:25, Presentation on Gifted Services (Cheryl McCullough)

Cheryl McCullough, Supervisor of Gifted Services, presented on delivery of services for gifted students in APS. Key takeaways:

- APS uses a holistic approach to identification (ie, test scores, observations, growth portfolios, etc), which has enabled more students to be identified.
 - APS is identifying students proportionally to their population within APS for some subgroups (Black, White, students with disabilities, and English Learners at levels 3, 4 & 6). Improvements still need to be made in identification for other subgroups (Hispanic, English Learners levels 1&2, economically disadvantaged).
- APS uses the “Talent Development Model” in its approach to delivering gifted services and extensions in the classroom.
 - A Talent Development Model focuses on students’ strengths.
 - APS uses an inclusive, “push-in” model for delivering gifted services that can benefit all students in the classroom (by providing opportunities for extended learning) and takes the ceiling off for advanced learners.

- There is a misconception that if students are not “pulled out” of their normal classroom, they are not receiving gifted services.
- Classroom teachers are the main providers of gifted services -- not the Resource Teacher for the Gifted (RTG). The RTG primarily supports and coaches the teachers in developing “extensions” (such as critical and creative thinking activities) and delivering differentiation. (Differentiation = tailoring instruction to meet individual strengths and needs.)
- Arlington middle schools will start offering intensified classes in science, social studies and English for 7th and 8th grade starting in fall 2023, and for 6th grade starting in fall 2024. The intensified classes will be open to any student who wishes to enroll, enabling access to any student who wants to try a more challenging class.

7:45, Q & A with Cheryl McCullough

Reps ask initial questions following presentation.

8:00, Reps move into elementary and secondary break-out groups and discuss Gifted Services

Attendees split into two groups, one focusing on Elementary Schools and one focusing on Middle and High Schools, and discussed gifted services. Teams participants also discussed with Anne Paris.

8:10, More Q&A following discussion (Jenny Roahen Rizzo and Cheryl McCullough)

Reps shared issues and questions raised within break-out groups.

8:20, Break-out groups discuss feedback from communities on Educational Technology (from Jan 2023 meeting)

Two in-person groups and Teams group shared feedback from communities on Ed Tech.

8:30 Meeting ends