

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.

Dec. 3, 2018
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Call to order

6 p.m.

Members Present

Laura Bailey, Terrie Bertrand, Sarah Blake, Erika Coghill, Judy Fay, Jen Fuller, Bentley Griffith, Natalie Hollifield, Sherri Kelly, Brittany Kleinman, Mary Levesque, Pearl McInally, Kimberly Meno, Kirahy Meyers, Will Nelson, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting

Guests Present

Brian Lewis

Approve minutes

Natalie Hollifield made a motion to approve the Nov. 5, 2018 minutes. Terrie Bertrand seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

School Safety Update

Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operations, provided a school safety update for the committee. He focused on the three safety and security forums that were held in the fall.

The presentations focused on:

- Proposed building improvements included in the Nov. 6 Bond Election;
- Facility design;
- Training for students and staff;
- Emotional and developmental well-being and support; and
- Communication tools.

After the presentations, the following questions were asked of the attendees:

1. What safety measures are in place that are working?
2. What additional safety measures should we consider?
3. What role can families and community members play in school safety?

One program attendee wanted to know more about the SafeSchools Reporting Tipline. This anonymous tipline can be used by anyone to alert the district and schools to any issues that may be occurring. Attendees were curious as to how student were educated to use the tipline. Mr. Lewis explained that the district is working to promote the tipline to students. For instance, signs could be posted in areas that are more prone to harassment, intimidation or bullying like in bathrooms or locker rooms. He also suggested creating a custom refrigerator magnet or sticker to send home to families.

Another discussion area focused on preparing volunteers for emergencies. This year, the district started teaching substitutes how to respond to emergency events. This high school has a buddy system where

teachers check on each other's classroom.

School bus safety was an area of concern. Mr. Lewis said that we have cameras on many of our school buses. Parents were asking for more cameras on the buses. The transportation department is also creating a handbook to help bus drivers deal with behavior on the bus.

Research Projects- School Schedule

Committee members broke into smaller groups and discussed how other districts are scheduling their school days and calendars. The discussion focused on regional, state, and national school districts. The research showed that school days and calendar vary widely. For instance, some Arizona schools have a modified year-round schedule. Schools in Pueblo, CO have a four-day week. In Bellingham which has a later start time for some grade, there is improvement in student health and learning. Several school districts allow for early release.

The committee members had several questions.

- How do we determine the best learning schedule for kids?
- How can we shorten the summer a little bit lengthen holiday breaks so kids aren't missing as much learning time?
- How can we have a more consistent schedule for teacher professional development so parents can plan accordingly?

Equity and Cultural Competence

Committee members continued to focus on equity and cultural competence. Committee members started "I am from" poems and several shared them with the other committee members. The purpose was to learn more about others. These will be completed as homework.

There will be a smaller ACE equity team that will meet before the next meeting.

Closing

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 7