

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.

Nov. 4, 2019
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ali Amezcua, Laura Bailey, Terrie Bertrand, Sarah Blake, Erika Coghill, Kari Henderson-Burke, Judy Fay, Jen Fuller, Bentley Griffith, Natalie Hollifield, Mary Levesque, Pearl McNally, Kirahy Meyers, Will Nelson, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting

Call to order

Erika Coghill called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Mary Levesque make a motion, seconded by Terry Bertrand, to approve the Oct. 7 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Ignitor Task

Will Nelson led the committee in an icebreaker activity. Committee members matched and organized pictures as a team.

Discipline Policy Review and Changes

Will handed out a copy of the district's discipline policy – which mirrors state law – to the committee members. He explained that the trend is to keep kids in school. They can't learn if they've been excluded from class. Educators used to have discretionary practices. However, there was no equity built into these practices.

Trends have shown through data that there is disproportionality. If you look at student groups in schools, there's a higher proportion of non-white students being disciplined than white students.

The state has recognized these two issues and made changes to address them. Classroom exclusion means that the student is out of the classroom and not learning. We now we're required to define classroom exclusion.

Difference between classroom exclusion and in-school suspension (ISS): Student goes to ISS room

Another big change this year, before you can exclude a student, you have to had try something first

- Conference with student
- Document you had a conference, contacted parents
- There then could be an exclusion of some type

No discretionary discipline, consequence has to be related somehow to each individual student, this varies by the student's situation.

Sense of disrupting the educational process can play an impact too

Committee agreed that these discipline changes make sense

There were fewer referrals this year, especially in ELL and SPED, disproportionality?

What additional supports teachers are receiving:

- Elementary- uptick in behavior, behavior specialist was hired last year
- Child Advocacy Response and Engagement (CARE) team, big training process, look at interventions to help students, para part of CARE team
- Help address some behaviors at the elementary level
- Secondary- other form of discipline, behavior contract, if exclusion, only excluded for that period
- PD training for all certificated staff, introductory course

Elementary and secondary teams share with each other what's working and what can be improved

Will officered Restorative Circles during Summer Academy. Will share a story about how it worked for families at AHS and WHS.

Equity and Cultural Competence

Jen reported that the Equity Committee met. It was a good introduction, Will started out by talking about the graphs, green, yellow, red, broke down students by certain groups- low income, ELL, IEP SPED students

- Meeting to spur more questions than anything else, try to take a bite out of the elephant
- ELL kids and who have an IEP- problem related to SPED or ELL???
- Saw some stats about homeless kids, McKinney Vento, broken down by race, ethnicity, 20 percent of native American are homeless
- School districts are starting to focus on equity
- See what other districts equity plans look like
- Someone has to do the work, what supports can we put around our teachers.
- Talked about equity policy the board adopted
- Some districts around us have audited themselves, equitable polices, staff/student ratios, etc. publish results and look at recommendations, look at procedures and plans from different districts
- Look at practices of teaching and learning- project-based learning, restorative justice practices, less testing- Judy
- Looking at procedures others have generated will help us with our process

There will be a *Stronger Together* equity event in May- Arlington, Darrington, Lakewood, cities and tribes also involved, Sno-Isle library involved, Snoco executive office. Looking at who we are as a community, what do we bring as a culture and how does it compare to other cultures, food, arts and crafts, combining it with health fair, May 16, Week before, engaging school and libraries

Pearl- put together a diversity council at AHS, more kids talking about equity and share their experiences, Ali is on the diversity committee, they meet Nov. 20

Follow-up of ACE 2018-19 recommendations

PD structure of early dismissal- task force to review this, Laura and Terry, Pearls (get write up from Chrys)
Later secondary school start- Erika, Sarah Blake,

Check In Survey Results

- No public meeting after the bomb went off
- Protocol for bus drivers committing hit and run
- Equity policy ideas
- Electric bus grant, ACE member

District Updates

- Board approved a trio of election packages- EP&O levy, Capital Levy, Post Bond
- Community Voices

Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 2