

## 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.*

**Oct. 5, 2020**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

### **Members Present**

Ali Amezcua, Sarah Blake, Sarah Cofer, Erika Coghill, Odie Engles, Judy Fay, Britt Kleinman, Mary Levesque, Anne McAlvey, Kimberly Meno, Will Nelson, Kari Pendray, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Sophie Willis

### **Guests Present**

Krissa Cramer, Duane Fish, Brian Lewis, Karl Olson, Jonathan Ventura

**Call to order:** 6:02 p.m.

### **Approve Minutes**

Britt Kleinman made a motion, seconded by Will Nelson, to approve the May 27 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

### **Reopening Arlington Schools Update and Conversation**

Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent, provided an update to the committee on the progress has been made in bringing students back to school in a hybrid model.

Krissa Cramer, District Nurse, provided the committee with a health update for the district. She showed the committee health metrics and numbers from Oct. 5. To date, there have been no positives cases of COVID-19 in our district.

Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operations, talked about the closure of schools since March 13. The schools are conducting health screening and contact tracing. We have had a small number of students on campus. In September, the district started connectivity pods for students who had no internet coverage at their home and no cell coverage for a hotspot. There are about 20 students per building taking advantage of this option. The district is providing breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students through Dec. 31. We are currently transporting a small number of students. The district has 450,000 paper masks. We also have a supply of face shields and gowns. We have certain cleaning protocols in place. K-1 students start school on Oct. 12.

Karl Olson, Kent Prairie Elementary Principal, thanked our nursing staff for all they've done during the closure. He said that the schools are going to be ready to welcome students on Oct. 12. They've been meeting with staff for the past three weeks. A document has been developed with 66 questions and they are finding the answers to those questions. The admin has also been designing and refining our procedures and protocols. There are ongoing meetings with K-1 staff and all staff so they have the context for what it takes to make this happen. Parents have a choice of hybrid or committed distance learning. We currently have 230 students in committed distance learning. Committed distance learning is working. The hybrid "A" group coming next M/T and "B" group coming W/Th. We want to do this right! Chrys is proud of everyone who's working hard to get schools open, There's a lot of creative energy.

Sarah Blake asked what metrics we're using to move from step to step. Chrys Sweeting showed a document that addressed this.

Britt Kleinman asked what the timeline is to look at bringing other grades back on campus in a hybrid model. Chrys Sweeting said no sooner than three weeks between groups but it will probably be closer to four weeks.

### **SRO Discussion**

Brian Lewis, Jonathan Ventura, Arlington Police Chief, and Will Nelson, Director of Equity and Student Success, shared a slide presentation with the ACE members. Highlights focused on:

- Legislature that governs School Resource Officers
- Proposed contract between Arlington Public Schools and the city of Arlington
- History of SRO qualifications and selection
- SRO Training
- Misconceptions about SROs
- Avoiding the School to Prison Pipeline
- Demographics

Duane Fish, Arlington High School Principal, urged members not to lose sight of the reality of the world we live in. He stressed the importance of safety and security. He also referenced the bomb that was set off at AHS last October. He said that had the SRO not been on campus, it would have gone differently. He stressed that seconds matter in situations like this. He recommended having an SRO at the high school and to expand on the program.

Due to time constraints, the committee members had several questions that were not answered during the meeting. An additional meeting is being added to continue the conversation and answer questions.

### **Topics for the 2020-21 School Year**

- Hear how remote learning is going, help and resources available to kids
- Continuing our equity work, how curriculum teaches black history (creating district and community equity team that represent our demographics in our schools. Curriculum is part of that).
- Shifting to a culture of wellbeing, is this an Adverse Childhood Experience?
- Student Nutrition- Impressed with staff, what it took to pull off feeding all children during COVID

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.