

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.

Jan. 4, 2021
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ali Amezcua, Sarah Blake, Sarah Cofer, Erika Coghill, Montan Copenhaver, Autumn Engels, Judy Fay, Kari Henderson-Burke, Lauren Hunter, Stacy Jacobs, Ryan Johnson, Britt Kleinman, Mary Levesque Anne McAlvey, Kimberly Meno, Will Nelson, Kari Pendray, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Sophie Willis

Guests Present

Krissa Cramer, Brian Lewis

Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Montan Copenhaver made a motion, seconded by Kimberly Meno, to approve the Dec. 7 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

District Updates

Dr. Sweeting shared that the high school's Flight performance in December was very well done. She and other administrators are also talking with the athletic director about bringing sports back next month.

Reopening Update

Dr. Sweeting, Krissa Cramer and Brian Lewis provided an update to the committee on the reopening of Arlington schools.

- The county continues to be in the high range of cases (more than 350 per 100,000 people)
- She shared that the district continues to weigh the risks and benefits of bringing more grades back
- Staff having contact with students were tested for COVID on Jan. 4. Additional testing will take place on Jan. 15. The benefits of the testing are:
 - Identify COVID-19 Positive staff members before start of school, including asymptomatic
 - Minimize impacts of staff and student quarantines due to close contacts at school following break
 - Promote staff and community public health and peace of mind
- Certain Special Education, Preschool, Connectivity and English Language Learner students started back to school on Jan. 4. Grades K-3 start back to school on Jan. 19.

Kari Henderson-Burke talked about the different learning options for students. They are: Distance Learning; Hybrid; Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center; Arlington Online Program (AOP); and Committed Distance Learning.

She shared that the board asked to expand committed distance learning. There are currently eight students on waiting list, moved 26 off waiting list.

Committee members had a number of questions:

- What's the minimum number of staff you need to keep school open?
- Why are some schools open full time in Skagit County and not here?
- Are high risk families being given priority on the waiting list? We're not aware of a medical risk situation
- Will we extend committed distance learning beyond COVID-19?
- Can we add attendance to next meeting, academic results, what about equity issues we're seeing with distance learning? And Mental Health

Equity Conversation

Will shared the poem "Forty-One Bullets Off-Broadway" with the committee. ACE members wrote emotions and what images resonated with them.

How does this relate to APS?

- Some people in the community don't believe the APS story about the downtown shooting
- The fact we're having the conversation is extremely important, important to have with our kids
- Important that we discuss this topic in schools with our students
- At the end of the day, we want compassionate kids
- Students and staff of color in our district have different experiences than others. Important for educators to understand that this comes with these students.
- Impact = Educators and parents have a profound opportunity to start a ripple effect on how BIPOC people experience life and how we can be advocates and allies, using compassion, empathy and love for one another who do not look like us (white) people.
- The District should explore how we can add more content to classes that encourage discussion of race/racism.

Next Meeting, Monday, Feb. 1, 2021