

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.

Feb. 2, 2023
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Sarah Blake, Cheryl Burkhead, Grant Cramer, Madison Griffith, Kerri Helgeson, Nichole Henderson, Megan Hodgson, Stacy Jacobs, Britt Kleinman, Erica Knapp, Mary Levesque, Karrie Marsh, Anne McAlvey, Kari Pendray, Alex Pincus, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Ava Wolfe

Guests Present

Gina Zeutenhorst, Ed Aylesworth

Call to Order

6:03 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Erica Knapp made a motion, seconded by Anne McAlvey, to approve the Jan. 5 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Child Nutrition Update

Director of Nutrition and Support Services, Ed Aylesworth, provided the committee with an update on the district's Child Nutrition program.

- The National School Lunch Program was created in 1946 to provide low-cost or free school lunch meals to qualified students.
- The Child Nutrition Act of 1966 implemented the School Breakfast Program.
- HB 2610-Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act 2017-18 requires schools to provide a meal to all students who request one, regardless of their ability to pay.

Mr. Aylesworth talked about what the meal program looks like for the different grade levels. He also discussed the "offer vs. serve" to reduce waste.

During COVID, the federal government paid for universal meals for all students. No applications were required. This year, we returned to the regular program since funding had stopped. The state has also tried to improve access to the program.

Here is a [link](#) to the proposed USDA rules for schools.

Budget Update

Executive Director of Finance, Gina Zeutenhorst, addressed the following area with ACE members:

- Current Budget Challenges
 - Enrollment is recovering more slowly than hoped
 - COVID-related federal/state aid ended/is ending
 - Higher levels of service/staffing
 - Balance fund decreasing
 - State funding model leading to funding gaps (e.g Special Education)



Overview of Timeline



Jan 2023 – Board approval of enrollment for 2023-24



April 24/May 8 Board Resolution for Reduced Educational Programs



Feb/Mar 2023 – Staff plans, prioritization of resources



Non-renewal notifications on or before May 15



April 23, 2023 Legislative Session Ends



July 2023 – Draft Budget
August 2023 – Board Budget Hearing and Approval

District Informational Updates

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations at schools throughout the district
- High school students were recognized by Arlington Rotary
- A Unified Basketball game was held on Feb. 1 between the Arlington Eagles and Mariner Marauders

Closing

Anne McAlvey made a motion, seconded by Erica Knapp, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.