

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.

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

Members Present

Terri Bertrand, Grant Cramer, Judy Fay, Nichole Henderson, Stacy Jacobs, Britt Kleinman, Erica Knapp, Mary Levesque, Anne McAlvey, Alex Pincus, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Ava Wolfe,

Guests Present

Dave McKellar, Karl Olson

Call to Order

6:03 p.m.

Introductions

Since this was our first in-person meeting this year, committee members introduced themselves to one another.

Approve Minutes

Anne McAlvey made a motion, seconded by Terri Bertrand, to approve the Feb. 2 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Special Education Update

Dave McKellar, Director of Special Education, provided an overview of the Special Education program to committee members as well as some of the costs involved.

The Special Education Department serves students from age three to 21.

- Developmental PreSchool (3-5)
- Communication (3-21)
- Special Programs (5-21)
 - Resource Room - Predominantly Academic Focused
 - Extended Resource Room - Academic/Functional Focus
 - Emotional Behavioral Program - Behavior Focus
 - Life Skills - Students significantly Impacted – Functional Focus
 - Transition Program - Age 18-21 - Job/Life skills readiness
- Non-Public Agency Placement (NPAs)- outside the district placements

- Contracting for Educational Staff Associates (ESAs)

Students served:

- 2019-2020: 898 (Start@ 817) (805 avg.)
- 2020-2021: 824 (Start @ 744) (808 avg.)
- 2021-2022: 887 (Start @ 769) (841 avg.)
- 2022-2023: ??? (Start @ 811) (867 avg.)
- 912 as of March 1, 2023

SpEd Dept. Focus for 22/23

- Inclusionary Practices Project/Universal Design for Learning
- Recovery Services (March 2020 to Present)
- Funding

Categorical Programs Update

Karl Olson, Director of Categorical Programs, provided an update on the Categorical Programs in Arlington Public Schools.

Title I, Part A

- Federal Funds
- \$637,905 granted for 2022-23
- PreK-12 for assistance in reading, writing, and math
- Schools with a poverty average of at least 35% qualify for the Targeted Assistance Program
- Schools with a poverty average of at least 40% qualify for the Schoolwide program
- Eagle Creek and Kent Prairie both operate a Schoolwide program
- Buildings are rank ordered by free/reduced lunch count to receive funds (Eagle Creek, Kent Prairie)

Learning Assistance Program

- State funds
- \$1,292,500 granted for 2022-23
- For K-12 assistance in reading, writing, math and readiness of those subjects
- Behavior Intervention Support (C.A.R.E. team)
- All five elementary schools receive LAP funding
- Funded LAP support for SVLC for the first time this year.

Transitional/Bilingual

- State funds
- \$589,000 granted for 2022-23
- To address the needs of eligible students so each may develop language proficiency that enables meaningful access to grade level curricula and instruction.
- Promotes a two-way language system of instruction.

- Increase in qualified students (projected at 273 and currently at 345)

Title III and Title IV

- Federal funds
- \$39,000 for Title III granted for 2022-23
- \$42,000 for Title IV granted for 2022-23
- Supports supplemental instruction and services for language acquisition
- Provides language support for qualified students who are Native American/Alaska Native

Highly Capable

- State funds through apportionment
- \$185,000 anticipated funding for 2022-23
- To provide instruction, activities and services that accelerate learning and offer unique academic challenge for K-12 learners identified as highly capable.
- Students qualify for HCP through academic and cognitive assessments
- A continuum of services must be offered and programming is designed based on the individual need of each student.

District Informational Updates

- The high school spring production is taking place the next two weekends.
- The Community Budget Forums will be held on March 8 at Post Middle School, March 28 at Eagle Creek Elementary, and via Zoom on March 29.

Closing

Mary Levesque made a motion, seconded by Erica Knapp, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, April 13.