

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.

**Monday, Oct. 3, 2016
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Jenny Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Members Present

Lisa Bruce, Kathy Ehman, Mary Levesque, Mike Ray, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Marcy Taylor, Jenny Taylor

Members Absent

Linda Bollinger, Cathy Clark Smith, Pedro Gonzales, Therese Hering, Sheri Kelly, Kimberly Meno, Casey Miller, Hanna Novoy

Approval of Minutes

There were not enough members to form a quorum so minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Entry Plan

Presenter: Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

Dr. Sweeting gave a presentation to the ACE Committee on the Superintendent's Entry Plan.

She emphasized to the committee that she wanted to "stay the course" this school year. Next month, a committee will be formed to review the strategic plan. The strategic plan was last reviewed in 2010. Dr. Sweeting said she wanted the committee to review the plan to see if the district's mission and vision needed to be enhanced. The committee also might come up with something that wasn't discussed in 2010.

She reviewed the District Essentials with the committee. The District Essentials are: Every Child, Every Hour, Every Day; Coherence – Aligning Our Work; Professional Learning Communities/High Performing Teams; Resource Accountability; and Positive, Professional Working & Learning Environment.

Dr. Sweeting said she was blown away by the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in Arlington Public Schools and how high performing the teams are in the district. She said it's important to have measurable outcomes and make sure the PLCs are a healthy and collaborative team effort.

Dr. Sweeting is focusing on the following six parts of the Superintendent's Entry Plan this year:

- 1) Develop and strengthen the governance team/Board/Superintendent relationship;
- 2) Nurture vibrant collaborative relationships of the high-performing teams and understanding of the organizational capacity to meet the Strategic Plan;
- 3) Foster and strengthen the positive, open and engaged relationship with our community, parents, residents, businesses, service groups and legislators;

- 4) Champion the existing use of research, data and positive results in decision-making at all levels;
- 5) Ensure the continued financial stability of the district; and
- 6) Maintain and enhance the innovative student learning-focused programs and priorities set out by the Strategic Plan and managed by the district improvement planning process.

Dr. Sweeting mentioned that the district is looking for volunteers for the Master Facilities Committee.

Equity, Access and ACEs Presentation

Presenter: Kathy Ehman, Assistant Superintendent

Kathy Ehman stressed the need for equity and access in Arlington Public Schools. All APS students should have the same opportunity to receive the education they need and deserve. Equity means giving students what they need to be successful. It's important to recognize that not all students are the same; they learn in different ways and at different paces. Ms. Ehman stressed the important of leveling the playing field so all students have the same opportunity to succeed.

Ms. Ehman talked about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research. This research shows that adverse childhood experiences are common. Teaching children to be resilient can help them overcome ACEs. One way to build that resiliency is to build relationships and trust. Ms. Ehman showed a video on how much children depend on relationships. Initial relationships in childhood are keys to a child's success.

She talked about researcher and national presenter Pedro Neguera who talked about five axioms:

- 1) The primary responsibility of leaders is to ensure that conditions conducive to good teaching and learning are in place and that all children have the opportunity to learn;
- 2) The skills of the staff and resources available to the schools must match the needs of students;
- 3) We know we are succeeding in closing the gap when the backgrounds of students (race, class, etc.) cease to be predictors of achievement;
- 4) The more you know about the children you serve the better you will be at meeting their needs and supporting their success; and
- 5) There must be a sense of urgency about addressing disparities in achievement.

Ms. Ehman talked about the need to be able to meet the needs of all students.

Committee members brought up some possible issues as they relate to equity and access:

- Wi-Fi problem in the Arlington; there's an infrastructure problem;
- Sending hard copy newsletters home with students would be helpful for those families who can't easily access a computer.
- Sports forms can be challenging to complete. A possible solution would be to have a computer/kiosk in each school lobby with volunteers to help parents. This could help the parents be more self-sufficient.

District Updates

Dr. Sweeting provided a couple of updates from the district:

- The Arlington Drug Awareness Committee is holding several drug awareness events at Arlington High School. Middle school events were held last week. There was also a community-wide event on Sept. 27.
- Homecoming is Oct. 14. The football game will be vs. Standwood.

Mike Ray made a motion to adjourn and Mary Levesque seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gary Sabol
Public Information Officer

Next Meeting: Nov. 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.