

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, Dec. 5, 2016
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Cathy Clark Smith, Kathy Ehman, Jen Fuller, Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam, Pedro Gonzales, Sheri Kelly, Mary Levesque, Casey Miller, Hanna Novy, Mike Ray, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Jenny Taylor, Matt Washburn

Guests Present

Deb Borgens, Shari Campbell, Eric DeJong, Mike Johnson, Brian Lewis

Members Absent

Linda Bollinger, Lisa Bruce, Lisa Coghill, Therese Hering, Kimberly Meno, Marcy Taylor

Gary Sabol was asked to email the ACE committee members a link to the revised board policy and procedure 4010 which involve the ACE committee. The board of directors approved revisions to Policy/Procedures 4010, deleted Policy 4111 and added educators, business and higher education representatives to the committee.

Why revisit the strategic plan?

Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Chrys Sweeting, explained that the board of directors approved the ACE committee to review the strategic plan. The last time the plan was updated was in 2010. Our charge is to revisit and revise the plan if necessary then reaffirm the plan, not start from scratch and reinvent the plan. There are three reasons to revisit the strategic plan:

- One of the leadership challenges and opportunities the board of directors requested for the new superintendent was to refine the strategic plan to align with priorities and goals for the next five to seven years;
- The strategic plan should be actionable and measureable; and
- It should reflect our current and future needs as a district.

A facilitator, Shari Campbell from Campbell Communications, has been hired to help guide the process. Ms. Campbell shared a schedule with the committee. She encouraged committee members to attend each meeting so they're involved in the process. The committee will provide the board with an update on the strategic plan on May 19.

Mission Statement

Ms. Campbell reviewed the mission statement with the committee: *Arlington Public Schools educates all students, preparing and inspiring them to achieve their full potential.*

She explained that the mission statement stands for what we do. It's also where you start with your strategic plan. Ms. Campbell split the committee into three groups to review three parts of the mission statement. She wanted the group to make sure the mission captures everything or if we need to consider anything else. Ms. Campbell also noted that this was the first of three meetings where the mission will be discussed, and encouraged committee members to be prepared to discuss it at the January meeting.

1) Educates all students

- The group gave this part five stars. They feel that this phrase could not be made any stronger or clearer.
- One idea was how we can embrace the community at large? They thought it might be nice to highlight the collaboration between industry, education, city, etc. This is a very strong connection.

2) Preparing and Inspiring them

- The group liked this phrase but was trying to find a word other than "inspiring." Possible suggestions included building, empowering, motivating, supporting or challenging.
- As a whole, the group liked the phrase. They liked that it states that were preparing them (for beyond high school).
- They stated if we're doing our job right, we're inspiring them to go beyond and feel great about what they're doing. Students want to learn when you inspire them. More than just teachers inspire students. This can also include parents, community members, city leaders, industry professionals and others.
- We're empowering them with a good education. Empowering implies responsibility to a community. It feels more global; we live in a global society. We want to give them the skills to be successful.

3) To Achieve their full potential

- Achieving their full potential is the end product for the students.
- There was some question as to what full potential meant. Does it mean being college and career ready? Being a productive citizen?
- What are students doing after high school? We want to help them be successful in whatever they choose to do. We want to challenge them to continually grow and be lifelong learners. Learning is never done. We want them to continually learn for the rest of their lives.
- We want to teach students as much as we can. In the future, they're going to know more than we do. We want to give them the tools for tomorrow and the skills to always be learning.
- We have to model this learning for students. We should try and launch ourselves to learn new things.
- People can plateau if they feel they've reached their full potential. They need to be constantly learning. Students will achieve at different levels. How many feel they're at their full potential? There is always room for improvement.
- What are we as a public school system doing for students? There's an endpoint for Arlington Public Schools. If we can instill in them problem solving and critical thinking skills, it will prepare them for life. This way, they can be lifelong learners to pursue whatever they're striving for. It will inspire them to do more.

Strategic Plan Survey

In January, a strategic plan survey will be sent to staff, parents and community members. We want to hear from the community about some of their priorities for the district. Ms. Campbell asked the committee to review the survey question and send any comments to Gary Sabol. She also asked members to think about key groups or stakeholders who should be invited to take the online survey such as Rotary and Chamber of Commerce members.

One committee member asked if there will be a separate survey directed to students. Another committee member asked if the survey was going to be translated into different languages.

Matt Washburn was especially interested in the survey. He said his company is having to hire out-of-state workers because students aren't coming out of high school with the skills they need for manufacturing jobs. How can we develop skills needed for the jobs that are out there? How do we build that pipeline?

One committee member wanted to know how to target students who have graduated? They could give a reflection on classes they took at APS and determine how prepared they were. Mr. Ballew, the leadership teacher at the high school, might be a resource for this. A lot of classes also have Facebook pages that might be another resource to reach graduates.

Final Thoughts

The Mission is what we do. The Vision is what we want to be.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Campbell asked that members review the meeting minutes and vision statement prior to the January meeting.