

## 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, April 9, 2018**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

### **Call to order**

Mary Levesque called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### **Members Present**

Maggie Bagwell, Ryan Barci, Arianne Blackburn, Sarah Blake, Sarah Cofer, Kathy Ehman, Jen Fuller, Natalie Hollifield, Sheri Kelly, Mary Levesque, Hanna Novy, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting, Matt Washburn

### **Members Absent**

Linda Bollinger, Lisa Coghill, Angie Donaldson, Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam, Cindy Glunt, Pedro Gonzales, Jillian Gooding, Lauren Hunter, Ryan Johnson, Joy Johnson, David Mathieson, Cheryl McGuire, Kimberly Meno, Casey Miller, Virginia Muniz, Jomo Simpkins

### **Guests Present**

Brian Lewis, Katherine Ray

### **Approve minutes**

Hanna Novy made a motion to approve the March 5 minutes. Maggie Bagwell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

### **Focus Group**

Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operations, and Katherine Ray, Executive Assistant, Operations, conducted a focus group with the committee.

Ms. Ray explained that the intent of conducting the focused discussion group was to gain insight into issues surrounding the February 2018 Arlington Public Schools bond proposal. In that election, voters who reside within the boundaries of Arlington School District were asked to approve the district issuing \$107.5 million in bonds. The bonds would support the construction of new school buildings and the improvement of existing school buildings.

The ultimate result of the election was that 55.6% of voters approved issuing bonds. School bonds must receive 60% approval in order to pass. If the bond had been approved, the district would have also been eligible for approximately \$9 million in state matching funds that could only be used for school building construction or improvement.

Communications, project selection, tax impacts, and general questions about the community's perception of school funding were the subject of the focus group questions.

The district is considering bringing another bond proposal to voters for their consideration. The focus group questions were intended to help school district decision makers understand issues relating to the school's instructional buildings, building needs, and ways to fund improvements to or replacements for those buildings.

The questions included:

1. Did you receive informational materials sent by the school district to your home?
2. Was the bond mailer easy to read or difficult to read?
3. Where do you get information about Arlington Public Schools?
4. Where did you get information about the February 2018 school bond proposal?
5. What questions about school buildings should the district answer before bringing a new proposal to the community?
6. What questions about school funding should the district answer before bringing a new proposal to the community?
7. Think about the February 2018 bond proposal.
  - a. In your opinion, what would be the most important reason for someone to vote "Yes" on school bonds?
  - b. In your opinion, what would be the most important reason for someone to vote "No" on school bonds?
8. Scenario: you are a member of the school board making decisions about the next bond proposal.
  - a. Which projects that had been included in the February proposal would you include in a new bond proposal and why?
  - b. Which projects that had been included in the February proposal would you not include in a new bond proposal and why?
  - c. Which projects that were not part of the February proposal would you include in a new proposal and why?
9. Is there anything else about the February 2018 bond proposal that we haven't discussed but you feel is important?

The committee members responded to each of the questions but their responses remained anonymous.

#### **District Updates**

Dr. Sweeting provided the committee with district updates:

- She explained that she and several others will be attending an equity conference on May 23.
- A letter was sent to parents explaining the new visitor entry systems at many of our schools.

Maggie Bagwell made a motion to adjourn and Sheri Kelly seconded the motion. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 7**