



APS Whole Child Working Group

Meeting #5 Notes

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Education Center Room 101 A/B, 1426 N. Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22207

Web site <http://www.apsva.us/wholechild>

Meeting Objective

Build upon work at previous meetings and refine the working groups' vision for

- Physical Health
- Learning, Skills and Knowledge

Prepare for the meeting

- Review the attachments and be ready to speak to your programs area of specialties. Attachments are posted on the meeting notes webpage <http://www.apsva.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=33575>

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

Chair, Heather Suave welcomed the group and shared a couple of items:

- Heather will provide an update to the School Board on Thursday, April 21.
- Information and details about the ASCD Whole Child Symposium on May 4 were shared.

More than 20 individuals participated, including: Rosa, Rachel, Paul, Joan, Bob, Cathy, Mark, Teron, Teri, Devanshi, Kim, Alicia, Lisa L., Meredith, Marion (for Sam), Linda, Sharon, JC, Laura, Pam, Kelly K., Brenda Wilks and Debbie.

2. Transition/focusing activity


Rosa Briceno, APS' Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Coordinator led a focusing activity that she uses with some of her groups. The yoga type moves had members moving and stretching in animal poses. While bear mode, participants were encouraged to signal each other, and everyone had fun growling at each other.

3. Connecting the work

- Heather reviewed the charge, our progress and her plan for conveying the working group's recommendation to the School Board on June 2. We
 - created a vision of the five focus areas.
 - reviewed the information from other organizations (see the resources on our website),
 - are starting to build the framework.
 - The work will be compiled into a report for the SB and inform policy and next strategic plan.

- Pam McClellan

- Shared information about the Whole Child messages shared with Administrative Council (monthly meeting of APS principals, directors and the Executive Leadership Team) on April 11. Staff members participating on the WCWG have noted that while APS is doing a lot of the things identified as opportunities/gaps, we're not doing a good job communicating about the work. She tied the work to Maslow's Hierarchy and taking care of the needs of students, giving examples of
 - the AP at Washington-Lee making sure students had breakfast (physiological),
 - the principal at Swanson leading safety discussions with administrators so they know how to respond when something happen (safety),
 - best buddies at several schools (engaged)
 - classrooms (supported and challenged)
- Talked about the Whole Child workshops she attended at the ASCD conference and some lessons learned like making the message simple so that all staff can link terms like safe to their interactions with students.



Charge for School Board's
Whole Child Working Group

- ensure that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged
- Schools are addressing WC, BUT the community does not see it
- develop a framework that will inform decision-making
- Will help APS align current activities and communication
- Next meeting – we'll ask you all to identify some examples of your Whole Child activities

4. Refining the definitions

- Lisa reviewed the process used to shape our activity on the framework tonight (see presentation meeting #5).
 - At meeting 3 the group settled on 5 focus areas including:
 - Learning, Knowledge and Skills
 - Physical Health
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - Social and Emotional Well Being
 - Culture, Climate and Physical Space
 - At meeting 4, facilitators led table discussion around the focus areas, and members were asked to identify what currently exists and where are opportunities, and within each they grouped their responses under schools, community, family and other.
 - This generated 16 pages of ideas. A lot of the suggestions got into very specific recommendations (lighting, meditation, specific clubs and organizations).
 - The ideas were then grouped and sorted to identify themes, then the working group's themes were compared to the ASCD indicators. There was a lot of alignment so the exercise uses the ASCD indicators, and includes those that aligned closely with our themes, as well as the once that did not align.
- There was a discussion about family and community engagement as one of our focus areas. Some of the differences in understanding among group members may have come up because family and community was interwoven into each focus area and is not limited to the family and community engagement focus area. We will look at this closely when we review the framework for family and community engagement at Meeting #6.
- Heather led the discussions to refine Physical Health. The committee spent a lot of time editing the ASCD indicators, drafting common terms, discussing the intent as it applies to our work. A draft of the results for Physical Health will be posted after the chairs weekly meeting on 4/19.

5. Recap and preparing for next meeting

Since the discussion on Physical Health took a long time, we'll need to address the remaining focus areas at Meeting #6. Heather, Barbara and Lisa will review potential changes to the approach. The worksheets for the four remaining focus areas will be sent to the group ahead of meeting #6.