

Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee

September 12th, 2017

Topic: Annual Member Training

Members Present: Paul Patterson (Chair), Wendy Pizer (Vice-Chair), Nadia Facey (Secretary), Alison Acker, Alison Dough, Caitlin Davies, Cloe Chin, Jennifer Johnson, Kay Luzius, Leila Carney, Margy Johnson, Michelle Best, Nick Walkosak, Rebecca Patterson and Tauna Szymanski

Members Absent: Sarah Jane Owens

Staff: Dr. Patrick K. Murphy (Superintendent) Paul Jamelske (Director of Special Education), Colleen Koval (Compliance Specialist), Kathleen Donovan (Parent Resource Center) and Kelly Mountain (Parent Resource Center)

Guests: David Rosenblatt, Hannah Dannenfels, Michael Dinkelman, Hank Millward (VDOE), Robert Davis and Debby Davis and Monique O'Grady

Agenda Items	Discussion/Decisions	What to do/who/when
Welcome		
Paul Patterson	Welcome to a new year of ASEAC.	
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy	Dr. Murphy welcomed ASEAC members to a new school year and showed his support for the committee by attending the meeting. All APS schools are accredited. The district is currently just shy of 27,000 total students they are still enrolling some pre-k students and are projecting 27,276. The superintendent shared his support dreamers. September 23 rd the district is having an engagement day. School board is working on new policies, including an inclusion policy that will be imbedded into all policies with instruction. School board is also looking at device policies, CIP, budget, boundaries and career center. Transportation did have some challenges at the beginning of the year, he takes responsibility for that and he is working with everyone to ensure it gets fixed promptly.	
Public Comments		
Cloe Chin	<p>1 - What is the APS policy/process for students who fail the SOLs, PALS, SRI's and Math Inventories? I am hearing that parents were unaware of the fact that their child failed the SOLs until the testing results were sent home late August into September. Can the Office of Special education take ownership of A) notifying every parent whose child has failed the SOL and B) A plan to help the student-intervention? Summer support? Summer camp? Retake options?</p> <p>2 - I am particularly concerned about high stakes testing for students in high school whose diploma is tied to passing the SOLs. What does APS have to offer a student who fails Reading? Writing? Math?</p> <p>3 - Have all special ed teachers now done the Step up to writing training? Has Step Up to Writing been integrated into the Lucy Calkins Writers workshop training?</p> <p>4 - Will APS be exploring more Math interventions especially a more multi-sensory option? The majority of Math interventions appear to be computer based programs. Have Schools started using Cathy Richardson and Do the Math? What are the results? How do you ensure the appropriate intervention is used and monitored?</p> <p>5 - Can we change the process for the start of year to hit the ground running with the previous years information? For example, if a student failed the SOL and based on grades and any other screeners appears to be struggling, can APS immediately address these issues rather than wait for another round of screeners in the beginning of the year? It seems there is plenty of information to make an informed decision. Can the Office of Special ed have their special ed coordinators oversee this effort for SPED kids?</p>	Office of Special Education was given written comments and will follow up on concerns and raised.

	<p>6 - Is there someone within the Department of Special Education monitoring testing for SWD?</p> <p>7 - I was very disappointed that the Department of Special Education did NOT include the APS survey that was developed in ASEAC in their recent mailing. Why didn't it get included with the VDOE survey?</p>	
Michael Dinkelman	Michael is a current student in the APS system and doesn't think tests should be the only way to access knowledge.	
Nick Walkosak	<p>Last week we were surprised when a white van with Arlington Public Schools on the door pulled up to take our son to HB Woodlawn. He is riding with one other student from that school. I wanted to make the Inclusion Task Force (ITF) and ASEAC aware of this as I am not sure how many such vehicles are being used around the county. Having students with disabilities being transported in anything other than a yellow school bus line the rest of the students could be an inclusion issue and maybe cause students to identify these kids as "different."</p> <p>I figure this is probably driven by cost savings and manpower efficiency but that doesn't make it the right decision if kids are negatively impacted by peer perception.</p> <p>This is not a complaint at the moment as we are still assessing and processing but wanted to find out whether other schools/students are in this arrangement, whether this option is going to expand and whether ASEAC and ITF feel that white vans is the right way to go for our community. Thank you.</p>	Office of Special Education will follow up on concerns and raised.
Guest Speaker		
Hank Millward, VA Department of Education	<p>Hank was invited to speak to the committee and discussed the legal mandates and responsibilities of a local advisory committee (LAC), commonly known as a local Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Hank provided information and resources to assist with the effectiveness of local SEACs and provide information about the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) and identify the needs of Arlington County's SEAC – ASEAC.</p> <p>See attached presentation for more details.</p>	
Open Discussion Period		
APS Restructuring	The APS Offices of Special Education and Student Services have been restructured and are now part of the Department of Teaching & Learning (formerly Instruction). Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching & Learning, will be attending our meetings, however was not able to attend tonight due to a school board work session.	
ASEAC & APS Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI)	<p>ASEAC is technically under the structure of ACI. This year ACI is changing how the full committee and sub committees meet, they will have all committees meet on same night to foster collaboration. This year ASEAC will keep our regular meeting time which we have had for years. Other committees are also struggling with the scheduling changes.</p> <p>As background, ACI has many vice chairs. ASEAC member Tauna Szymanski is the ACI vice chair for Inclusion and former ASEAC member and former Chair Donna Owens is the ACI vice chair for</p>	

<p>ASEAC report to APS Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI)</p>	<p>Every 2 years ACI makes a report to the school board. On the off years ASEAC makes our own report – as we did last year. This year we are working within the ACI structure.</p> <p>With changes with ACI – our annual reporting report is due Nov. 1st. Traditionally, we have worked within the ACI structure, which has been successful. Many important recommendations impacting students with special needs such as ATSS, inclusion and additional school psychologists have come from ACI.</p> <p>We need to work carefully, quickly and diligently on our report. ASEAC leadership looked back at public comments and issues raised in the past year and that have we have 5 potential ideas that will be sent out by e-mail. These are simply potential recommendations, comments and additional recommendations are requested. Keeping in mind we want to work within the ACI structure.</p> <p>Moving forward we will pick one or two top recommendations and present a draft in October, vote soon after and Paul will present to ACI in November.</p>	<p>ASEAC send out potential recommendations for comment and additional suggestions. All ASEAC members respond.</p>
<p>ASEAC Coverage at other meetings</p>	<p>ASEAC members are needed to attend other meetings within Arlington and report back on issues and topics of importance and relevance to the committee. We are looking for members to take turns attending School Board meetings, SEPTA meetings and ACI meetings.</p>	<p>Sept. 14 – ACI: Paul P Sept. 14 – SEPTA: Michelle and Margy Sept. 21 – SB: Margy Oct 4 – ACI: Alison A. Oct 4 – PRC/SEPTA Parent Liaison meeting: Rebecca and Wendy Oct. 5 – SB: Leila</p>
<p>October Agenda</p>	<p>Voted on the agenda for October. Motion Passed – 15 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent</p>	<p>ASEAC members should receive information to read ahead regarding the next meeting about a week prior. Members should feel free to submit comments.</p>
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>	

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Syphax Education Center - Room 101

NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- 7:00 - 7:10 pm Welcome and public comments
- 7:10 - 8:10 pm Presentation by Paul Jamelske, Director of Special Education
- 8:10 - 9:00 pm Discussion about ASEAC reporting year recommendation