

Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI)

Minutes

September 5, 2018

Members Present:

Co-Chairs – Meredith Purple and Dana Milburn

Staff Liaison - Teaching and Learning – Sarah Putnam

School Board Liaison – Barbara Kanninen

Vice Chairs - Donna Owens, Michael Shea, Tauna Szymanski, Gabriella Uro, Kevin Dezfunal

Committee Chairs:

Committee	Chair		Co-Chair		Staff Liaison	
Arts	Susan Scott (Act.)	x			Pam Farrell	
Career, Technical	Alisa Cowen	x			Kris Martini	x
Early Childhood	Alison Acker				Elaine Perkins	x
English	Cloe Chin				Shannan Ellis	x
	Linda Arnsberger	x				
ESOL/HILT	Anne Zebra	x			Sam Klein	x
Gifted Services	Elaine Maag	x			Cheryl McCullough	x
Health/PE	Vera Cardinale	x			Debbie DeFranco	
Math	Mark Hill	x			Shannan Ellis	x
Science	Nina Nichols	x			Dat Le	x
Social Studies	Anne Parris	x		x	Kerri Hirsch	x
	Royce Sherlock	x				
Special Education	Wendy Pizer	x			Paul Jamelske	x
Student Services	Jill Flack		Judy Hadden	x	Laura Newton	x
					Pam McClellan	
World Languages	Sara Aramendia	x			Elisabeth Harrington	x
	Andrienne McQuillan	x				

School Representatives:

Schools - Elementary	Representative		Alternates		Non-Member Reps	
Abingdon						
Arlington Science Focus	Adina Porter	x	Sylvia Cacciato	x		
Arlington Traditional						
Ashlawn						
Barcroft	Carrie Lombardi	x	Jennifer Weber			
Barrett						
Campbell						
Carlin Springs						
Claremont	Adrienne McQuillan	x				
Discovery						
Drew		x				
Glebe	Laura LoGerfo	x				
Hoffman-Boston						
Jamestown	Keith Chanon	x				

Key	Stephanie Westerlund	x	Erin Freas-Smith			
Long Branch	Caroline Rogus	x				
McKinley	Valerie O'Such	x				
Nottingham	Angela Na	x				
Oakridge						
Patrick Henry						
Randolph	Rubina Ahmed	x				
Taylor	Patrice Brown	x				
Tuckahoe						
Middle Schools						
Gunston						
HB Woodlawn MS						
Jefferson						
Kenmore	Anne Oliveira	x	Lisa Blackwell	x		
Swanson	Terri Schwartzbeck	x				
Williamsburg	Heidi Gibson	x				
High Schools						
Arlington Career Center	Alisa Cowen	x				
Arlington Tech	Graham Plaster	x				
HB Woodlawn HS	Ben Sessions	x	Jay Brodsky	x		
Langston						
Stratford	Janet M. Sater	x				
Wakefield	Sonia Rosen	x	Arminda Valles Hall			
Washington-Lee						
Yorktown	Anne Paris	x	Dan Corcoran	x		
Montessori	Jamey Borell	x	Andy Greenwood			

Community Representatives:

Association	Member	
Alexandria/Arlington Regional Workforce Council		
American Association of University Women (AAUW)		
Chamber of Commerce		
Civic Federation		
County Council of PTAs		
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)	Bob Garcia	x
League of Women Voters	Natalie Goldring	x
Special Education PTA	Janna Dressel	x
Teachers Council on Instruction		

**Advisory Council on Instruction
Agenda**

Wednesday, September 5, 2018
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

7:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks - Meredith Purple, ACI Co-Chair

Meredith Purple, Co-Chair of ACI, welcomed all ACI members the 2018-2019 school year. Meredith introduced herself and Dana Millburn as Co-chairs for ACI. Special guests at this meeting were, Superintendent, Dr. Patrick Murphy, School Board member and ACI Liaison Barbara Kanninen, School Board Chair Mr. Reid Goldstein, School Board Vice-Chair Tannia Talento.

7:05 School Board Introduction and Remarks - Reid Goldstein, School Board Chair

Mr. Goldstein welcomed all ACI to this new school year 2018-2019. He said that on behalf of all the school board, he wanted to express his gratitude for the time and commitment ACI has made to Arlington Public Schools. Mr. Goldstein said that the participation of ACI provides the school board with opinions and recommendations that lead to the success of APS programs and students. He said that he knows ACI members invest a tremendous amount of time often juggling many other responsibilities and spend time away from family to work with a community that values APS as an asset. The expertise of ACI, the connections that are built, the dialogue that is brought to the table and the team work that takes place at ACI is paramount to the work of the school board. The School Board is grateful for the leadership and dedication ACI shows in supporting the Whole Child as a community. He looks forward to working with ACI this school year and continue to shape the future of APS.

7:10 Superintendent Remarks - Patrick Murphy, Superintendent

Dr. Murphy welcomed all visitors. He asked all APS staff present to stand and be recognized for all the hard work they do with ACI throughout the school year. Dr. Murphy said that the ACI Committee is an advisor to the school board, but there is also a lot of collaboration between school staff and ACI that happens through the year. Dr. Murphy wanted to let staff know how grateful he is for this work. He also introduced Sarah Putman who is covering for Dr. Tara Nattrass while she is on leave. Dr. Murphy wanted to share that today, it was announced that the APS teacher of the year for 2019 is Timothy Cotman. There are 8 regions that are represented in Virginia. Tim Cotman is one of the finalists and the representative for Region 4. Dr. Murphy said that the School Board will be coming out with a robust agenda of priorities for this school year. In keeping pace with APS growth, he encourages ACI to continue the work it already does for APS and encourages budget neutral ideas. Dr. Murphy said that our new *Strategic Plan* that many have worked on is a good strong backbone for ACI to continue to focus on. Addressing excellence and opportunity gaps and a focus on inclusion are some key things to emphasize this school year.

7:15 APS 2018-19 Priorities - Sarah Putnam, APS Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Sarah introduced the staff liaisons for the various ACI committees. She shared information regarding the new Strategic Plan 2018-2024. She also reminded ACI, that when making recommendations throughout the year, to keep in mind APS' Mission, Vision and Core values to ensure we are prioritizing student success and well-being.

7:30 Department of Teaching and Learning Overview - Sarah Putnam, APS Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Sarah shared the new *Teaching and Learning Framework*. She provided an overview of the three main areas of the *Teaching and Learning Framework* which are made up of: *Instructional Framework, Curriculum, and Professional Learning Framework*. She asked ACI members to look through the published brochure for a few minutes and ask any questions.

Question: On the section *Instructional Framework (slide 8 of the PowerPoint), Instructional Framework, under Teaching*, maintain high expectation for all learners while allowing for persistence during learning tasks. What does allowing for persistence during learning tasks mean?

Answer: That reference addresses this idea of helping student think about learning as a process. "I don't know it *yet*." Teachers support students who may feel they have not mastered a task, and work with them to develop persistence and a growth mindset. They keep working to master a concept or skill and persevere rather than giving up.

Question: On the same page, *Instructional Framework, under Fostering Inclusive Environments*. What does Cultivate student agency and self-regulation mean?

Answer: This term is about self-advocacy, and being able to say, "What I am good at?" "What goals am I going to set for myself?" Knowing what I want to learn and how to develop a plan to achieve it.

Question: Under the *Professional Learning Framework*, are these courses available now?

Answer: Yes, this is what is in place for the school year. Not all them of ran on our first day of learning in August. The hope is that the majority of courses listed will be available in October and then the rest throughout the school year. These courses are being scheduled to exist for at least 5 years, not just this year.

Question: In the number sequence, number #4 *Assessment of and for Student Learning* in the booklet, why only some courses have that number next to them?

Answer: That number indicates the alignment to the teacher evaluation standards. APS' teacher evaluation system is based on Charlotte Danielson's Framework and have 7 standards. This is way teachers can look at offered courses that align with the teacher evaluation standards.

Question: Is there a number on this page for the assessment of the course?

Answer: That information is not on this page. After every professional learning course offered at APS, assessments of the outcomes of the course are completed. Examples of how we assess include conducting different surveys and feedback from participants and conducting classroom visits to help measure implementation of best practices.

Question: With this new Framework how are parents going to see a difference in the classroom this year? How will we know that this is happening?

Answer: Much of this is already happening and in place at APS. This is not new information; this framework was established to put it all in one place for reference.

Question: How where these topics for professional learning chosen? Are they static or will new topics be offered?

Answer: The topics are based on data and the defined areas of need from the various programs and offices. In some cases, they were determined by program evaluation recommendations. The offerings are not static, but we need at least two-to four-year cycles to assess outcomes on the impact of that offering. New topics or courses may be added or refined for the future.

Question: How do math coaches and gifted resource staff in classrooms fit in this Professional Learning Framework?

Answer: They are helping by developing course modules. They are invited to develop and facilitate some of the courses, as well as participate as learners themselves.

Question: Is there some sort of measurement of what or how many teachers are taking these offerings?

Answer: We have courses earmarked as offerings that are recommended by year one, year 3, and year 5. Keep in mind that teachers have a limited amount of professional learning days to engage these courses. We will collect data on how many teachers are taking specific course offerings and share that information with ACI.

Question: How does the Instructional Framework interconnect with the Professional Learning Framework? Do you have a mapping of that?

Answer: We have not captured that in this booklet but the offerings do tie into the Instructional Framework.

Question: What is the difference between workshop and amplified workshop?

Answer: A workshop is a session lasting 4 hours or less, and a full day training would be an amplified workshop. A seminar is multiple days or sessions.

Meredith directed staff to fill out note cards provided at each table, with any additional questions regarding the Framework booklet. Sarah continued talking about the Teaching and Learning priorities for this year. Another piece of the work and a large focus for this department this year is improving teaching and learning experiences for students with disabilities, as well as establishing consistency in instructional programs for all K-12. The K-12 Instructional Pathways will be established to help parents have a better understanding or awareness of what choices they have for students and how to navigate them. More information to come.

Question: regarding the note card for questions, once we fill out questions on the card, do we put our names on them and how are we getting the responses back?

Answer: Putting your name on the card is optional. The questions will be addressed. Hand them in to Meredith at the end of meeting.

8:25 Meredith shared information regarding the ACI 101 PowerPoint. Co-Chairs

ACI is an advisory organization, not a policy making body that makes a rule or a law. ACI provides advice to the School Board. ACI is one of a few groups that have a representative from every school across the county. ACI works to gather ideas, debate, pass along information to schools, and present recommendations to the school board. Meredith introduced herself and Dana Milburn as ACI Co-Chairs and introduced the vice chairs.

8:30 Dana Milburn welcomed everyone back and shared information on the ACI 101 PowerPoint. Dana said that ACI Vice-Chairs will be assisting committees on their reports as well as helping advise new chairs this year. Reports that will be presented will have vice chairs assisting. Michael Shae will work with Early Childhood, Kevin Dezfulian will work with Gifted, Tauna Szymanski will work with World Languages, Gabriela Uro will work with ESOL/HILT. Dana introduced a few of the committee chairs and they spoke a little about their committee and invited members to join.

Question: Being that there is parent advisory group for the APS budget, will vice chair, Kevin Dezfulian represent ACI?

Answer: Yes, all the vice chairs have liaison assignments.

Kevin added that there were two areas of focus this year. One, is to meet and be more informed on the budget before turning in reports. Second, is for ACI to meet about the next year's budget when it comes out. This will help ACI know where the budget is.

8:35 Committee meetings and informal discussions - Meredith Purple, ACI Co-Chair

Meredith invited members to meet with their committees. Or, to walk around and ask other groups questions.

9:00 Adjourned