

# **Advisory Council on Instruction School Board Work Session**

Dana Milburn, ACI Co-Chair  
Rebecca Hunter, ACI Co-Chair

January 28, 2020



**Arlington Public Schools**



*Since the Department of Instruction became the Department of Teaching and Learning in recent years,*

**ACI, Advisory Council on Instruction**

should transition to:

**ACTL, Advisory Council on  
Teaching and Learning**

More to come soon!



# ACI 2019-20 Vice Chairs

ACI has benefited tremendously this year from the wisdom, experience, kindness, and hard work of our Vice Chairs, whom we thank:

- **Kevin Dezfulian**
- **Natalie Goldring**
- **Laura LoGerfo**
- **Nina Nichols**
- **Ryoko Reed**



# ACI 2019-20 Leadership Procedures/Emphases

- **Five Vice Chairs:** redesigned roles; increased Committee connections
- **Continued/increased emphasis on recruiting volunteers: \***
  - ACI Representatives for available spots
  - Replacing “graduated” Committee Members
- **Continued emphasis on PTA/community outreach \***
- **Continued emphasis on connection/coordination with other groups \***
- **Initiated Advisory Committee Chairs’ group meetings (3 per year)**
- **Responsiveness: elicited ACI- & Committee-member/Chair feedback; \***  
emphasized their (and School Board/APS) priorities in 2019-20 programming & scheduling decisions
- **Assistant Superintendent (DTL) and Superintendent searches:** collected and contributed thoughts and questions to searches; attended focus groups

*\*Additional information includes ACI Flyer and ACI 2019-20 Calendar, posted on ACI Website under “Work Session Documents.” Revised application for Committee Members coming soon, too.*



# ACI Fall Highlights

- **ACI 101**

Introduction/overview of ACI function to new and returning members, with welcome and remarks from School Board Chair and Members, Interim Superintendent, and APS staff, as well as ACI leadership. *For representative examples of successful past Advisory Committee recommendations, please see “ACI 101,” Slides 18 and 19, posted on ACI Website under “Work Session Documents.”*

- **Student Mental Health Awareness Panel, including Bullying Policy\***

A primary focus for APS, breadth of information on issues and resources presented by APS and APCYF staff, as well as community volunteers; introduced by School Board Chair and Member.

- **Advisory Committee Forum\***

Opportunity for ACI members and community to learn more about the important work of the 13 instructional committees.

- **Equity and Excellence\***

Presentation from staff and E&E Committee on work, engagement and importance of utilizing this lens in all the work of ACI.

- **Other Committee Reports (non-recommending)\***

- Career, Technical, and Adult Education Advisory Committee (CTAE)
- Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC)

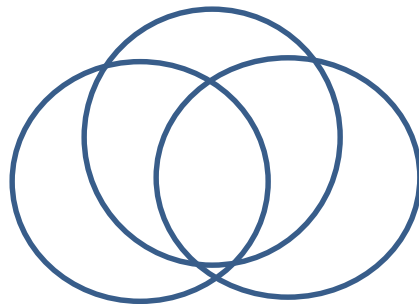
*\* Indicates programming chosen as a result of our members’ input/priorities and School Board/APS priorities. For more information, please see ACI 2019-20 Calendar, posted on ACI Website under “Work Session Documents.”*

*We thank all of our ACI Representatives and all of our speakers!*



# ACI Constructive Feedback Forum - 1

## THREE OVER-ARCHING & INTERLOCKING THEMES



### **CONSISTENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY**

Needed throughout: across all schools, curriculums, programs

Includes support: provide knowledge/material/other elements needed for success

### **EQUITY**

At least one year of growth for every child everywhere. Period.

Equity also built through school communities; will require training, education and modeling

### **EVIDENCE-BASED INSTRUCTION**

Must be data-driven

Must be implemented with fidelity



# ACI Constructive Feedback Forum - 2

## **Other Important/Commonly-expressed Thoughts/Emphases:**

- **Teaching reading; & please get rid of Balanced Literacy/Lucy Calkins**
- **Teaching research and writing**
- **Student mental health/stress:** thank you for emphasis; please continue
- **Bullying:** very large concern
- **Changes in grading policies**
- **Summer school change**
- **Communication/engagement with parents**
- **Changing next year's calendar & this late**
- **Middle school starts too early**
- **Technology use**
- **Broad inconsistencies: Example, 50% of schools not providing the needed 90 min/wk FLES instruction**
- **Praise for many teachers/staff;** please emphasize recruiting early, providing training, & retention



# Advisory Committee Chairs' Feedback

***In addition to broad agreement with previous two slides, Advisory Committee Chairs share/seek:***

- ***Strong, unanimous preference for late Spring Work Session***
- ***Additional input opportunities for Superintendent search***
- ***Additional input on policy review process***
- ***Data access and helpful information***
- ***Increased engagement with School Board: feedback on recommendations & other important input they provide, such as on policies***





# Spring 2019 ACI Topics

- **Instructional Program Pathways (IPP)**
- **Budget Presentation and Discussion\***
- **1 to 1 Study Update\***
- **Standards Based Grading\***
- **CIP Report**
- **Advisory Committee Reports\***
  - ASEAC (RY)
  - Arts (RY)
  - English Language Arts (RY)
  - English Learners (NRY)
  - Gifted (NRY)
  - Math (RY)
  - Science (RY)
  - Social Studies (RY)
  - Student Services (RY)
  - World Languages (NRY)

*\* Programming/timing chosen as a result of our members' input/priorities & School Board/APS priorities. See ACI 2019-20 Calendar, posted on ACI Website under "Work Session Documents."*

*Note: "RY" indicates Recommending Year Reports; "NRY" indicates Non-recommending Year Reports.*



# ACI Requests Return to Spring Work Session

## ACI asks to reclaim its traditional Spring Work Session:

- Recruitment/retention of ACI Representatives, Committees, Chairs
- Better Committee work capacity/quality on school-year schedule
- School Representatives better acclimated and able to judge recommendations later in year; better attendance, too
- *Very* strong preference – morale of Committees/Chairs, Representatives

We would like to transition to a Spring Work Session following the suggestion we were given of an *October 2020* Work Session as a one-time transition to finalize current Recommending Committees' Reports, followed by a *Spring 2021* Work Session for next school year's Recommending Reports.



# Advisory Committees Presenting Tonight

- 1. Social Studies Advisory Committee (SSAC)**
- 2. English Language Arts Advisory Committee (ELAAC)**
- 3. Science Advisory Committee (SAC)**
- 4. Arts Education Advisory Committee (AEAC)**
- 5. Math Advisory Committee (MAC)**
- 6. Student Services Advisory Committee**
- 7. Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC)**
- 8. Advisory Committee on English Learners (ACEL)**

*\* For representative examples of successful past Advisory Committee recommendations, please see "ACI 101," Slides 18 and 19, posted on ACI Website under "Work Session Documents," Slides 18 and 19.*



# Social Studies Advisory Committee

**Anne Paris, Chair**

**Heidi Gibson, Past Chair**

**Kerri Hirsch, Staff Liaison**

- **Recommendation #1:**
  - External equity audit to review curriculum and resources.
- **Recommendation #2:**
  - Provide a series of professional development courses focused on the goal of building student skills for active democratic civic engagement.
- **Past Recommendations:**
  - Increased focus on global education and citizenship
  - Support Performance Assessment Tasks (PATs)



**Cloe Chin, Chair**

**Lori Silver, Staff Liaison**

- **Recommendation #1:**
  - APS should adopt a rigorous high school writing curriculum incorporating instructional best practices for grades 9-12.
  - The Science, Gifted, Social Studies and World Languages Advisory Committees support this recommendation.
- **Recommendation #2:**
  - APS should create, adopt, and implement a short-term plan to ensure that every teacher responsible for teaching a student to read has the LETRS reading training (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling). Also ELA Department request.
- **Past Recommendations:**
  - Recommendation #1 above was also a past recommendation
  - Extending effective ATSS literacy intervention to secondary level



# Science Advisory Committee

## Jason Papacosma, Chair Dat Le, Staff Liaison

Themes: Equity, student support & well-being, and enhanced curriculum delivery.

- **Recommendation #1**

- Adopt an updated framework for the nature, emphasis, and timing of independent projects as a near-term strategy to develop a consistent, APS-wide project-based learning (PBL) model for science curriculum delivery.

- **Recommendation #2**

- Provide funding and support for one full-time Outdoor Classroom Coordinator.

- **Past recommendations:**

- Focus on improving consistency and support for middle school independent projects
- Outdoor lab funding
- Integrative learning across the curriculum



# Arts Education Advisory Committee

**Susan Scott, Co-Chair**

**Pam Farrell, Staff Liaison**

- **Recommendation #1:**

- Provide Physical Education Credit for Participation in Marching Band (PE/Health now offered online with Virtual Virginia).

- **Recommendation #2:**

- Establish line item funding for Visual Arts supplies that is consistent for all secondary schools.

- **Recommendation #3:**

- Assessment and changes to middle school block scheduling for electives

- **Past Recommendations:**

- The two recommendations above are also this Committee's recent past recommendations.



# Math Advisory Committee

**Amy Smith Beaumont, Co-Chair**

**Ron Fecso, Co-Chair**

**Shannan Ellis, Staff Liaison**

- **Recommendation #1:**
  - Provide 1.0 FTE Certified Math Coach for all elementary schools
- **Recommendation #2:**
  - Reduce unnecessary/untimely math acceleration in APS middle schools & communicate rationale to parents
- **2019 Program Evaluation**
- **Past Recommendations:**
  - Provide 1.0 FTE Math Coaches for all elementary schools.
  - Reduce unnecessary/untimely math acceleration





# Student Services Advisory Committee

**Judy Hadden, Co-Chair**

**Kirstin Pickle, Co-Chair**

**Wendy Carria, Staff Liaison Designee**

- **Recommendation #1:**
  - Create consistency in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) goals, components and expectations district-wide for all students.
- **Recommendation #2:**
  - Student Services central office guidance and training for APS school staff/administrators in goals and desired outcomes of SEL.
- **Recommendation #3:**
  - Strengthen district-wide and school-based parent/family engagement focused on SEL.
- **Recommendation #4:**
  - Develop an APS SEL Coordinator position to provide district-wide coordination of SEL.
- **Past Recommendations:**
  - Increase number of counselors across all elementary schools to ratio of 1:371.
  - Continue increasing the number of school psychologists & social workers.
  - Expand number substance abuse counselors (SAC) to one full-time SAC per secondary school/program.



**Nadia Facey, Chair**

**Nick Walkosak, Vice Chair**

**Kelly Krug, Staff Liaison**

**Heather Rothenbuescher, Staff Liaison**

- **Recommendation #1:**
  - Create a system of accountability that sets a vision for high expectations, greater consistency and compliance for principals and central office leadership by utilizing 90 Day Plans and other metrics recommended by the program evaluation.
- **Recommendation #2:**
  - Review and adjust planning factors to ensure staffing allocations best support inclusive practice for students with disabilities in a variety of settings.
- **2019 Program Evaluation by Public Consulting Group**
- **Past Recommendations:**
  - Improve and increase consistency and uniformity of special education services implementation across the county.
  - Require general education teachers and building level administrators to attain core competencies for the education of students with disabilities.



**Anne Zebra, Chair**

**Sam Klein, Staff Liaison**

- **Recommendation #1:**
  - Empower EL families.
- **Recommendation #2:**
  - Strengthen teaching through Professional Development.
- **2019 Program Evaluation**
- **Past Recommendations:**
  - Make student English Language Proficiency (ELP) levels and corresponding coursework and sequencing clearer and more accessible to parents: Include the ELP level of each student in ParentVUE and eliminate "HILT" from course labeling in favor of using WIDA levels.
  - Add a full-time Early Childhood Specialist (instead of part-time) to the ESOL/HILT Office in DTL.



# Thanks to ALL ACI Advisory Committees & Chairs

- **Anne Zebra**, English Learners (ACEL)
- **Nadia Facey & Nick Walkosak**, Special Education (ASEAC)
- **Susan Scott and Hanna Eun**, Arts Education (AEAC)
- **Alisa Cowen & David Remick**, Career, Technical, and Adult Education (CTAE)
- **Meredith Jaeckel**, Early Childhood (ECAC)
- **Cloe Chin**, English Language Arts (ELAAC)
- **Ipyana Spencer & Terron Sims**, Equity and Excellence (EEAC)
- **Dan Corcoran & Alan Arnold**, Gifted Services (GSAC)
- **Amy Smith Beaumont & Ron Fecso**, Math (MAC)
- **Jason Papacosma**, Science (SAC)
- **Anne Paris**, Social Studies
- **Kirstin Pickle & Judy Hadden**, Student Services
- **Rick Jackson & Adrienne McQuillan** World Languages (WLAC)



# Our Thanks to You

*ACI's Leadership, Committees, Chairs, and School/Community Representatives  
would like to thank:*

**School Board Chair, Tannia Talento**

**School Board Members Reid Goldstein, Monique O'Grady,  
and Nancy Van Doren**

**School Board Member & ACI School Board Liaison Barbara Kanninen**

## **APS STAFF**

**Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent for DTL**

**Sarah Putnam, Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Tyrone Byrd, Director of Secondary Education**

**Melanie Elliott, Clerk, Arlington School Board**

**Rosa Ewell, Executive Administrative Specialist**

**ACI's Committee Staff Liaisons: Sam Klein; Kelly Krug and Heather  
Rothenbuescher; Pam Farrell, Kris Martini; Elaine Perkins; Lori Silver; Carolyn  
Jackson; Cheryl McCullough; Shannan Ellis; Dat Le; Kerri Hirsch; Laura Newton,  
Wendy Carria, and Pam McClellan; and Elisabeth Harrington**

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