

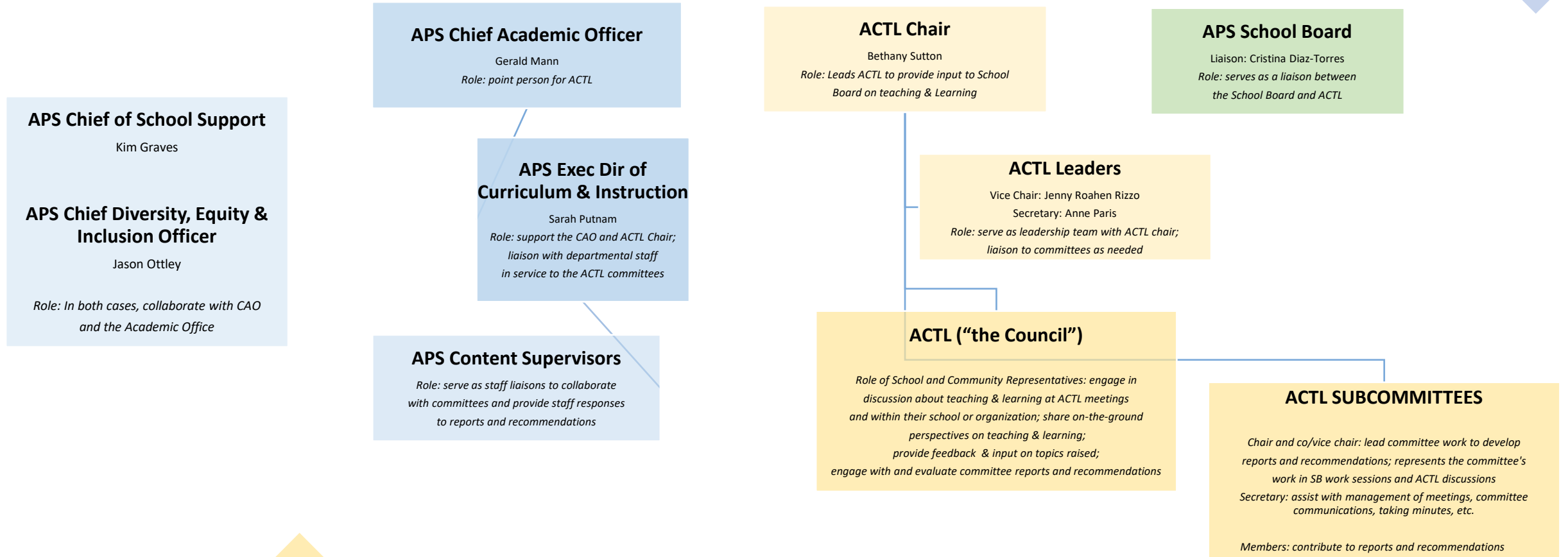


**Arlington
Public
Schools**

ACTL 101

September 7, 2022

Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning Organizational Chart

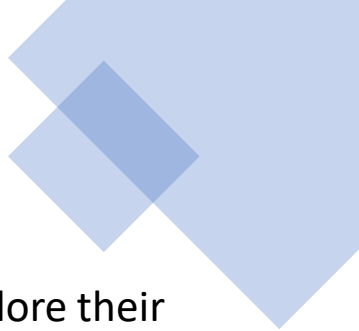



Who/what is ACTL?

- The Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning is made up of representatives from each school and some community organizations to assist in reviewing system-wide curricula and instructional programs and in development recommendations for improvement.
- ACTL helps bring parent and community voices to the table to share valuable input to the School Board, Superintendent, Office of Academics, and Office of School Support about student learning and educational outcomes.
- ACTL is a forum for broad input and discussion of ideas. We strive to create space for learning more about APS priorities and initiatives—broadening the range of well-informed parents—while also surfacing ideas and concerns from school communities.
- ACTL is made up of more than 50 individuals who are familiar with or interested in teaching & learning within APS
 - 1 representative from each of the elementary schools; 2 representatives from each of the middle schools; 2 representatives from each of the high schools; 2 representatives from HB Woodlawn (1 middle school; 1 high school); 1 representative from each of the other programs; additional representatives from community or affiliated organizations
- ACTL includes 12 affiliated subcommittees, focused on particular areas of teaching & learning, who engage with the School Board and report up through ACTL annually. The School Health Advisory Board & the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee also collaborate with ACTL in any recommendations they are developing that involve teaching & learning.

What are the ACTL Committees?

Committee	Chair / Co- or Vice Chair	Staff Liaison(s)
Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee*	Kathy Pericak/Rebecca Hunter	Kelly Krug; Heather Rothenbuescher
Arts Education	Hanna Eun	Pam Farrell
Career, Technical, and Adult Education	Dan Marschall / Rosie O'Neil	Kris Martini
Early Childhood Education	Maggie Slye / Meredith Jaeckel	Elaine Perkins
Educational Technology	tbd	Amy Jackson
English Language Arts	Kate Merrill / Mike Miller	Sarah Cruz (elem); Lori Silver (secondary)
English Learners	Jared Peet	Terri Murphy
Gifted Services	Greg Eastman / Carlisle Levine	Cheryl McCullough
Mathematics	Rachel Whirley	Shannan Ellis (elem); Carl Seward (secondary)
Science	Melody Mobley	Dat Le
School Health Advisory Board*	Dana Carr / Vell Rives (interim)	Debbie DeFranco
Social Studies	Caroline Rogus	Kerri Hirsch
Student Services	Adora Williams	tbd
World Languages	Adrienne McQuillan (interim)	Elisabeth Harrington



What is the relationship between ACTL and the subcommittees?


Each year, the subcommittees do deep and meaningful work to explore their areas of focus in detail and to develop recommendations for improvement;

They discuss those recommendations directly with the School Board in public work sessions;

Subcommittee chairs or their designees often attend ACTL meetings and contribute to the discussion of topics in that setting;


Per policy, the subcommittees report to ACTL, so they also bring their recommendations to ACTL for discussion and the ACTL representatives assess the rationale and recommendations being made by the committees. Toward the end of the academic year, the subcommittee reports are formally submitted to the School Board from ACTL.

Reps to ACTL are welcome to also join a subcommittee – and we encourage you to share information about the subcommittees to your school communities




ACTL
contributes to
a cycle of
continuous
improvement
within APS





What are your responsibilities as a school or community organization representative?

- Get to know the teaching & learning context of your school or community
 - Actively seek out diverse perspectives; engage with others who may experience things differently
 - Ask:
 - how are students doing with accessing content, activities, and opportunities for learning?
 - how are students doing with different subject areas?
 - are all students being supported in their academic, social, and emotional development?
 - And ask specific questions related to our agenda areas
- 

ACTL Rep Role continued... explore resources



VIEW YOUR SCHOOL REPORT CARD AND BE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT YOUR SCHOOL.



LEARN MORE ABOUT [PROGRAM EVALUATIONS AND THE YOUR VOICE MATTERS SURVEY](#)



EXPLORE [SCHOOL MANAGEMENT PLANS](#)



ASK QUESTIONS AND SEE WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE!

ACTL Rep Role continued... 3 Critical Lenses

1. The [APS Strategic Plan Goals and Mission, Vision & Core Values](#)

Mission: To ensure all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments

Vision: To be an inclusive community that empowers all students to foster their dreams, explore their possibilities, and create their futures

Core Values: Excellence; Equity; Inclusivity; Integrity; Collaboration; Innovation; Stewardship

2. The [School Board Priorities, 2022-23](#)

Priority 1: Ensure student well-being and academic progress with a focus on innovation, equity, and evidence-based practices.

- o Identify, report, and address all students' strengths and needs.
- o Innovate new strategies to improve secondary literacy. Continue to strengthen elementary literacy and mathematics at all levels.
- o Invest in improving supports for students with disabilities, English-learners, and Black and Hispanic students, based on current and historical data.

Priority 2: Recruit, hire, retain, and invest in a high-quality and diverse workforce to ensure APS is the place where talented individuals choose to work

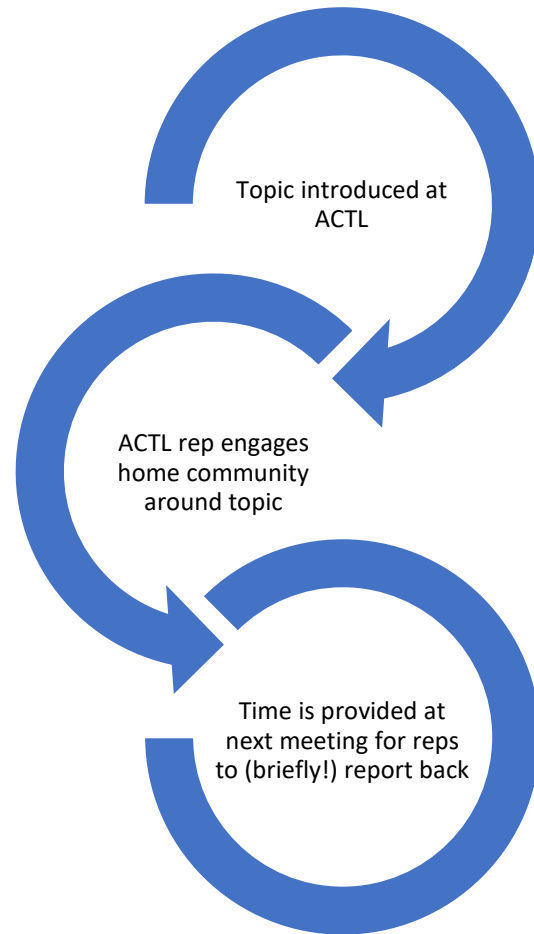
- o Sustainably fund market competitive salary scales and benefits.
- o Engage collaboratively in the negotiations process to reach collective bargaining agreements that will be in place beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Priority 3: Improve operational efficiency

- o Systematically review departmental organizational structures and practices to identify potential savings to APS.
- o Continue efforts to realign all operational systems and infrastructure with industry best practices concentrating on student and staff safety, customer service, and cost savings.
- o Prioritize maintenance and renovation of APS facilities and outdoor spaces in an equitable manner.

3. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** -- improve and implement equitable learning environments for all students (Read the [APS Equity Policy](#))

How ACTL Can Engage around Critical Topics



What we will do:

- Provide information about key topics
- Allow time for Q&A on each topic
- Bring appropriate staff into the room
- Listen for emerging themes, areas of concern, potential solutions

What you will do:

- Ask thoughtful questions; seek more information; assume good intention
- Engage with your community to learn more
- Participate in bringing summary input back to the conversation

How can you learn more and engage with your school or community?


- Ask the PTA for a dedicated time slot on each meeting agenda to share what you are hearing at ACTL and ask questions related to our agenda areas;
- Or - develop a small focus group or committee of diverse individuals who are willing to engage with you on a regular basis – in conversations or electronically – to provide feedback on teaching & learning;
- Use short/informal surveys with your school or community to solicit feedback;
- Visit other parent groups like the Club de Madres & Padres to discuss teaching & learning topics.
- Communicate about academic topics via multiple channels – school FB pages; WhatsApp groups; etc.

Above all – please seek out a variety of individuals/groups so that we continually are bringing diverse perspectives into our conversations.





Expectations for Engagement in ACTL Meetings

- Attend meetings regularly; be punctual and prepared;
 - Support each other by actively listening and staying engaged;
 - Honor the agenda—raise other topics with the ACTL leadership for consideration at another time;
 - Promote a culture of inquiry and an orientation toward finding solutions and offering ideas;
 - Discuss ideas & issues, not people;
 - Be respectful in what you say and how you say it;
 - Share using full information – avoid acronyms, first names, insider-speak.
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Meeting Dates & Logistics

September 7

October 12

November 2

December 7

January 4

February 1

March 1

April 12

May 3

June 7

Meetings will be held in-person:

Syphax Building, 2110 Washington Boulevard

2nd floor School Board conference rooms (254/256/258)

Note: if you need to participate virtually, please [contact Anne Paris](#), ACTL Secretary, at least 7 days in advance of the meeting. ACTL members may participate virtually for up to 2 meetings.



Stay in
touch!

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Vice Chair:

Jenny Roahen Rizzo (joahen@yahoo.com)

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Anne Paris (achparis@gmail.com)

