



APS-Community Working Group on Immigrants & Refugees Monitoring Report

*Presented by Julia Burgos, Chief of Staff
Marjorie Green, Working Group Member*

School Board Meeting - May 31, 2018



Working Group Objective

Recommend to the Superintendent and School Board changes in policies and procedures needed to ensure that immigrant and refugee students are afforded a safe and secure school environment that maximizes their opportunity to learn and offers each the opportunity to develop to his/her potential as a “whole child.”



Foundation

The School Board and Superintendent reaffirmed “unwavering commitment to maintaining school communities where ALL students know they are safe, nurtured, welcomed, respected, and included so they can achieve their full potential.” The Whole Child initiative likewise emphasizes that each child must be “healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged, and challenged,” and it lays out objectives that include:

- APS recognizes and will support the unique social/emotional and academic needs of our diverse community of learners and their families;
- Social/emotional and behavioral systems of support are provided when needed;
- APS creates trusting and respectful relationships with families and care-givers and honors their participation;
- APS helps all families identify and understand available APS and community services to support their children’s learning, connects them to what students are learning, and supports them as advocates and decision-makers;
- Each student feels valued, respected, and cared for.



Working Group Members - Staff

- Julia Burgos, Chief of Staff (*staff liaison*)
- Cintia Johnson, assistant superintendent, Administrative Services
- Dr. Laura Newton, director, Student Services
- Dr. Chris Willmore, principal, Wakefield HS
- Margaret Chung, principal, Arlington Career Center
- Dr. Barbara Thompson, principal, Arlington Community HS
- David McBride, principal, Kenmore
- Jamie Borg, principal, Glebe
- Carlos Ramirez, assistant principal, Claremont
- Dulce Carrillo, coordinator, community engagement



Working Group Members - Community

- Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez, Dream Project chair
- Marjorie Green, VOICE Strategy Team, former APS parent
- Kathie Panfil, VOICE Leader, former APS principal
- Jacomina de Regt, VOICE Strategy Team, former APS parent
- Betty Andrade, Dream Project, Parent committee chair, APS parent
- Becky Wolozin, Attorney, Just Children Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center
- Claudia DelGadillo, Claremont teacher, APS parent
- Jennifer Ozawa, APS parent
- Janeth Valenzuela, Latino Parent Association, APS parent



Working Group Timeline

May 2017

- **First meeting with Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Supt., Julia Burgos and reps. from Voice & The Dream Project**

August 2017

- **Working Group meets for first time**

January 2018

- **Working Group wraps up meetings after 6 months**
- **First draft of recommendations developed**
- **2nd meeting with Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Supt., Julia Burgos and reps. from Voice & The Dream Project to present recommendations**

April 2018

- **Supt. responds to recommendations and formalizes Working Group into Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Immigrant & Refugee Concerns**



Responding to the Recommendations

- **Assign responsibility and commensurate authority to a senior administrator to ensure timely and effective delivery of services to immigrant/refugee students and their families within the school system**
 - APS Director of Student Services Dr. Laura Newton has been serving in this capacity.
- **Establish a School Board-appointed standing Advisory Council on Immigrant/Refugee Students.**
 - Committee to meet quarterly
 - Provide updates to Board and Supt. on recommendations and current issues affecting our families.
 - Chief of Staff, Julia Burgos to serve as staff liaison.



Responding to the Recommendations

- **Providing Updates on the Working Group's Recommendations at a School Board Meeting**
 - The first update being provided this evening.
 - Supt. to provide quarterly updates on recommendations during his Announcements/Updates presented at Board meetings.
- **Review current student/family information collection policies and practices and evaluate future proposed policies/practices to assess whether they pose a barrier to full student or parent participation, and make changes as necessary to ensure access**
 - School & Community Relations reviewing and updating volunteer forms as first step.
 - Other forms will be reviewed to ensure families feel confident that the information being collected by APS is secure and relevant.



Responding to the Recommendations

- **Clarify the APS policy on what is required for an individual to make school-related decisions for a student whose parent is unable to do so due to detention or deportation; ensure the policy allows a student to remain in his/her current school for at least the remainder of the school year.**
 - Required documents to comply with APS residency requirements are being reviewed to address the concerns related to our immigrant students.
 - Given the complexities of this recommendation, updates to be provided after review of these documents with our legal counsel.
- **Provide all staff, including administrators, teachers, and counselors, culturally responsive training on current immigration policies and how these policies impact students and their families.**
 - With the current climate and the growing concerns of the immigrant community, we got ahead of issue last year by establishing a protocol for schools to follow in the event that schools were approached by law enforcement officials.
 - Hosted Superintendent's Seminar featuring book, *Teachers as Allies: Transformative Practices for Teaching Dreamers & Undocumented Students* on April 23, 2018 to further conversations and training.



Next Steps for Advisory Committee

- Finalize Committee Chair and membership
- Determine charge and scope of Committee
- Meet quarterly beginning in September 2018
 - Suggest next steps for recommendations
 - Update on current immigration landscape
- Develop report for Supt. annually in the spring
 - To include recommendations



Acknowledgments

- Community and staff members of Working Group
- Model for other jurisdictions
- Creation of the Working Group and now of the Advisory Committee reflects the commitment of Superintendent and School Board



Community Priorities

- Clarify APS policy on what is required for an individual to make school-related decisions for a student whose parent is unable to do so due to detention or deportation.
- Review policies relating to collection of personally identifying information to ensure they do not pose a barrier to full student or parent participation.
- Ensure training for all staff to foster awareness of the challenges for immigrant students and increase support for them.
- Enhance the K-12 curriculum to broaden understanding of immigrants' cultures and the drivers behind migration and to increase appreciation for immigrants' contributions.



Community Concerns for Advisory Committee

Further Study and Next Steps:

- Clarity around efficacy of the powers of attorney that parents complete
- Volunteer ID requests that are discouraging parent participation in the classroom
- Role of School Resource Officers
- Bullying prevention for students and parents
- Consistency across the system in addressing student needs
- Growing mental health challenges for immigrant/refugee students
- Curriculum that reflects contributions of/challenges facing immigrants
- Communications procedures/platforms that adequately informs families taking into account technology and other challenges.



Current Environment

Considering these moves, immigrant students and their families are challenged with increased mental health issues, lack of focus in the classroom and other factors affecting a child's ability to develop to his/her potential.

1. Current status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
2. Detention/deportation and border enforcement
3. Family concerns of being separated



Conclusion

- Community members look forward to working with APS to continue services to immigrant/refugee students and ensure all students can live into the Whole Child objectives and their full potential.
- Arlington is a community distinguished by its caring and commitment to inclusion and diversity.
- We look forward to working with APS leadership to ensure this is reflected in the daily experiences of immigrant/refugee students.