

SSAC November 2023 Meeting Minutes

1. In attendance

Caroline: Chair

Terrell: Staff Liaison

Anjy: New member (welcome!)

Melanie: Student

Nate: Vice-Chair

2. September/October minutes approved

Action item: Caroline will submit to Rosa for posting on APS website

3. 2023-24 Recommendation

- a. Terrell mentioned his appreciation for SSAC's support of the Dept's request for a elementary school specialist in the next budget
- b. Discussion of presentation to School Board, adding context to our recommendation
 - i. Alignment with APS's DEI initiatives and best practices
 - ii. Alignment with our previous rec and studies on benefits of more social studies instruction time in elementary schools
 - iii. Addressing budget impact and anticipating pushback
 1. Focus on the need for a resource for ES teachers
 2. Unique situation for social studies instruction: current events move quickly, need for a thoughtful response at some point and age-appropriate engagement
 3. Having point person for all ES teachers (who are not content specialists) to gather quality sources and also coach ES teachers on how to best use them
 - iv. Goal is to have someone developing curriculum and coaching teachers, this would not be a position that would be managing teachers or giving them directives
 - v. Highlight the position as something that "supports literacy."
- c. **Action items**
 - i. New draft will be circulate with slight edits; Terrell will provide his response
 - ii. 12/6 Caroline and Nate go before larger ACTL for feedback on rec
 - iii. 1/9 Caroline, Nate, and Terrell go before School Board for feedback on rec

4. Update from Terrell

- a. Terrell provided an article called "Interdisciplinary Learning Partnerships Between TK-2 Students and Scientists for Environmental Civil Learning:"
 - i. An article from an APS teacher that could be cited as an example.
—> article sent out in an email.
 - ii. Making a connection between social studies, literacy, math, and sciences.
- b. Terrell mentioned the potential of working with George Mason on "content academies" where teachers are able to learn from professors on specific subjects

5. December Meeting: Thurs 12/14 at 7 pm

- a. We may cancel meeting if there is no urgent business to discuss