

School Board Advisory Committee Working Group
Meeting#8- June 3, 2025

Subcommittees

Part A - Role, Composition, Process to form subcommittees

Component	Comments/Feedback	FINAL
Role and Purpose of Subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of subcommittees is to help an Advisory Council fulfill its charge by completing related tasks outlined by the School Board and/or Chair. 		
Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will comprise at least 3 but no more than 10 members, with the majority drawn from current Advisory Council members. The chair of the subcommittee must be an Advisory Council member. Parents, Students, Community Members, Staff, and Subject Matter Experts NOT currently serving on an Advisory Council may also serve on a subcommittee. 	<p>I appreciate that it pulls from the current committee to keep people focused on the intent. What is the process for people to join the subcommittee? How are people vetted? +1</p> <p>I disagree that a majority needs to be drawn from Advisory Council members. Current curriculum subcommittees are often composed of people with specialized subject matter knowledge who have no interest in serving on the more general ACTL.</p>	
Process to Form a Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be formed at any time, for a defined period. Subcommittee members may be appointed by the Chair and Board liaison. Appointments may be made on a rolling basis throughout the calendar 	<p>Keep the defined period - subcommittees should have a specific focus.+1</p> <p>I like that they can be formed on a rolling basis, as issues may arise.</p>	

<p>year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of subcommittees will be announced and posted publicly on the APS website. • The School Board may, but is not required, to have an application process for subcommittee membership 	<p>For publicity/recruitment, can we add to this? In addition to posting on the APS website, could it be included in a ParentSquare notification?</p>	
<p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee reports its work and findings to the Council at intervals agreed up by the council chair, subcommittee chair, Board liaison. The staff liaison is included in the decision-making about the timeline if the subcommittee's work requires additional data or research by Arlington Public Schools staff. 		

Part B - Benefits and Drawbacks of standing subcommittees VS. ad-hoc subcommittees

BENEFITS of having SOME <u>standing</u> subcommittees	BENEFITS of having ONLY <u>ad-hoc</u> subcommittees (No standing)
<p>Can address multiple issues more easily and pull on the specific expertise of individual members +1</p>	<p>Groups develop more comprehensive plans to recommend, understanding how all of the recommendations intersect and what is truly possible in a classroom.</p> <p>Keeps the central work of the group in the larger cohesive group.</p>
DRAWBACKS of having SOME <u>standing</u> subcommittees	DRAWBACKS of having ONLY <u>ad-hoc</u> subcommittees (No standing)
<p>People become too nuanced on one issue and don't understand that each subgroup being so narrowly focused end up all falling on the shoulders of teachers to implement recommendations in the classroom. (+1)</p> <p>The larger group should really understand the deeper work that it is basing the recommendations on.</p>	<p>You will lose folks who are knowledgeable and can run a meeting and get things done. If you are forming ad-hoc subcommittees every year, there will be a period of time where people have to figure out what they are doing and make the meetings productive. +2</p>
Possible alternatives to permanent standing subcommittees	Feedback -
<p>Have a few standing subcommittees for three years (26-27, 27-28, 28-29), then the Board will re-evaluate them. +1</p>	<p>I would suggest not having standing committees initially and then add them back if needed.+1</p>
<p>The supervisors of ELA, Mathematics, and Science and the directors of English Learners and Advanced Academics will each hold 3-4 meetings each SY between September to May for members of advisory councils to attend, hear an update from the</p>	<p>It seems like this should be part of the work of the larger committee</p> <p>I really like this idea. This keeps communication lines open between academics and the councils, such that it will hopefully be easier to identify when the need for a subcommittee arises. Allowing the public</p>

supervisor/director, and engage in discussion. Members of the public may attend as observers.	to attend helps with communication and transparency. +1
Supervisors or directors of additional areas may likewise hold such meetings, either at their discretion, that of the Chief Academic Officer or Superintendent, or as requested by the Board in advance of an initiative. (e.g., If it is known that VDOE will be revising the Social Studies curriculum the following year, it may be useful to start building the knowledge of advisory council members the year prior.)	<p>I think we need to be able to lay out clear expectations for staff and not have things that are based on discretion. +1</p> <p>Assuming the councils may request a meeting, even if it must be co-signed or approved by the Board or Board liaison, can we call that out?</p>
Content supervisors and the directors of Special Education, English Learners, and Advanced Academics will each provide an update with Q&A to the Academics Advisory Council at least once each SY.	I think this make sense.
Content supervisors and the directors of Special Education, English Learners, and Advanced Academics , along with supporting staff, will each hold a community information session with Q&A at least once each SY.	<p>This seems separate from the school board advisory committee scope of work. (Agreed, this seems to be an element of their work functions and doesn't seem related to the advisory councils)</p> <p>+1 like this idea and think it's important.</p>
Additional Suggestion Create a Canvass Course for ELA, Mathematics, and Science and the directors of English Learners and Advanced Academics to post information and updates for public consumption and a forum for questions	<p>I am not sure that Canvas is the best forum for this. +1, is there another platform that the public can more easily access?</p> <p>How would parents access this? Through their kids' iPads? I just don't think this option is realistic.</p>
Additional Suggestion I think we should keep many of the standing subcommittees and have them be given "the charges" that the school board is working on. The chair of each subcommittee should be a member of the Academic Advisory committee and I would suggest that these	<p>I strongly feel that the members of any subcommittees should be part of the larger advisory committee. +1</p> <p>I have reservations about transferring all standing committees, as is. We are revamping the organizational structure for multiple reasons.</p>

members meet every other month and have the subcommittees provide updates.

Hopefully the valuable participants from the current standing committees will apply for and join ad hoc committees formed in their areas of expertise in the future, but the councils and SB can also find a broader reach and recruit new members with just as much to offer. +!

Additional feedback on subcommittees

I believe that all subcommittees should be ad-hoc. These ad-hoc committees should serve for a defined period of time to research a specific charge from the School Board.

I think it best to start with the subcommittees as ad hoc, but be open to the idea that it may make sense for some to become standing subcommittees over time. I think this may only apply in a few cases, but the wording could reflect that subcommittees are ad hoc but with approval (SB? Committee chair? SB Liaison?) they can become standing.

We should keep core curriculum standing subcommittees (ELA, Math) and the Gifted Committee