

# School Board Advisory Committee Working Group

## Final Recommendations – December 19, 2025

The [School Board Advisory Committee Working Group](#) (The Working Group/WG) has defined the purpose and value of School Board Advisory Councils and developed the following recommendations for their revised structure in accordance with the [School Board's charge](#) in October 2024.

### Purpose and Value of Advisory Councils

The **purpose** of School Board Advisory Councils is to advise the School Board on division policies, strategies and initiatives that support implementation of the APS [2024-2030 Strategic Plan](#) and progress toward the outcomes defined in the relevant Strategic Plan priority, with a division-wide lens.

The **value** of School Board Advisory Councils is multifaceted:

- Their recommendations would be aligned with the APS 2024-2030 Strategic Plan;
- Councils would be flexible to respond to the most pressing priorities and needs of the School Board;
- Their recommendations would be developed by parents, students, community members, and APS educators in conversation with each other;
- Their recommendations would take district-wide needs, constraints, and impacts into account;
- The School Board would receive input on specific topics that reflect a broad range of perspectives.

### Recommendations for Advisory Councils 2.0

#### [Address pressing priorities of the School Board reflected in specific charges](#)

The Working Group recommends that the School Board deliver a charge to each Council annually that exemplifies the needs and priorities of the School Board for a particular school year(s). Said charges would be developed and approved by the School Board by May to coincide with the application process for membership to the Advisory Councils. Charges can be amended by the School Board, while Councils may also propose changes for the School Board's consideration.

#### [Provide actionable and relevant recommendations composed by diverse stakeholders that reflect a division-wide approach](#)

The Working Group believes that a Council's members should reflect the rich and diverse community that is Arlington. Their intellectual contributions, informed by unique cultural,

educational and normative experiences, would deliver project outcomes that are relevant to the district's needs and offer actionable solutions to the School Board.

### Restructure the scope and number of Advisory Councils to align with Strategic Plan priorities and focus areas

The Working Group recommends the following six Advisory Councils:

1. Academics Advisory Council
2. Student Health and Well-Being Advisory Council
3. Arlington Special Education Advisory Council
4. Career and Technical Education Advisory Council
5. Personnel Advisory Council
6. Operations Advisory Council

In response to the Councils' scopes of work ad hoc subcommittees may be formed to address a specific charge.

### Expand the membership of Advisory Councils to include more students and community members; add more seats for APS staff and Subject Matter Experts

The Working Group recommends that each Advisory Council includes parents; students; community members; APS staff; and Subject Matter Experts and has provided specific guidance for the minimum and maximum number of members within each of the above-mentioned groups. Increased diversity of representatives will bring broader voices and perspectives to the Advisory Councils.

### Strengthen the participatory character of Advisory Councils by designating seats for members knowledgeable in budget/finance and matters pertaining to English Learners; Title I; Students with Disabilities; and Advanced Academics.

The Working Group recommends that all Councils include a minimum number of members knowledgeable on financial/budgetary issues; understanding of Title 1 matters; representing the English Learners community; representing the Students with Disabilities community; and representing the Advanced Academics student community. While the number of seats for each group varies across Councils, generally the Working Group recommends at least two seats on each Council for each group specified. Throughout the year, these members will participate in scheduled meetings with relevant APS staff as well as with their parent Council.

### Advance the collaborative nature of Advisory Councils with the appointment of liaisons between Councils, with corresponding APS offices, and with the School Board

The Working Group recommends that each Council be assigned at least one APS staff liaison and a School Board member liaison. Additionally, each Council may assign a representative to each of the other five Councils to ensure exchange of information and collaboration.

### Establish a consistent governance structure across Councils

The Working Group recommends that each Council include a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary appointed annually for a 1 year term. The Chair and Vice-Chair may serve up to three terms, while the Secretary may serve up to eight terms.

### Focus on onboarding and member expectations to enhance Council members' engagement and decision-making

The Working Group recommends a structured recruitment and onboarding process that includes articulated expectations regarding meeting attendance and comportment, as well as participation in the Council's workload. Members may be removed from a Council for missing three consecutive meetings or 40% of meetings.

### Add public comment opportunity at each Council meeting

The Working Group recommends that time for public comments be a component of every Council meeting to increase opportunities for community members and stakeholders to engage with and broaden Council members' awareness of other perspectives.