

**Advanced Academics and Talent Development Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2025

Attendees:

- Co-Chairs: John Schaus and Mary Wierzbicki
- Secretary: Amanda Miesionczek
- APS Staff: Katie Madigan
- Committee Members: Ndubeueze Onyike, Dr. Natalie Goldring, Dr. Deanna Caputo, Greg Eastman, Elizabeth Corry, Brindis Ochoa, Andrea Hansen, Friederike Niepmann, Colleen Lunsford, and Ramon Reyes
- Community Members: Amanda Moore

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:42 pm

**Key Discussion Items & Decisions:**

- I. Introductions
  - Formal Introductions were conducted.
- II. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - Action: The October and November meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the AATDAC.
  - Decision: AATDAC will proceed with posting the approved minutes on the official APS website for public access.
- III. AATDAC Meetings and Presentation Dates
  - Presentation to ACTL: Feb 4, 2026 @ 7-8:30pm, Syphax
    - Co-chairs will be the primary presenters. Additional committee members are requested to attend to support note-taking and address questions, mirroring the Science Advisory Committee's recent successful approach.
  - Date for presenting at the School Board Work Session: Feb 10, 2026 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Syphax
    - Presentation limited to two (2) AATDAC presenters. The session is open to the public and will be live-streamed.
  - AATDAC will have the opportunity to formally refine and finalize the recommendations based on feedback received from the ACTL and the School Board.
  - Upcoming AATDAC Meeting Schedule:

- January 12, 2026: Attendance is critical as AATDAC is scheduled to vote on the final recommendations.
- February 23, 2026

#### IV. Updates from APS Staff Liaison

- APS working on elementary cluster data and co-taught classes data for the committee

#### V. Draft Recommendations

- The committee spent the majority of the time reviewing four draft recommendations for the upcoming report, focusing on: data needs, potential collaborating committees, and a possible draft vote.
- Status of Recommendations:
  - Draft Recommendation 1, Elementary Pretests:
    - Status: Considered well-developed and ready for vote
  - Draft Recommendation 2, IB Program Access:
    - Status: Needs more research and will likely be downgraded.
    - AATDAC discussed not including this as a formal recommendation in the report but instead noting the issue as an area of ongoing concern for future work.
  - Draft Recommendation 3, Co-teaching for Special Education and English Learner Students:
    - Status: Update to data from APS pending (data incomplete).
    - The committee is awaiting final elementary co-taught classes data from APS staff and the results of the SEPTA survey (Special Education Parent Teacher Association).
  - Draft Recommendation 4: Adaptive Student Apps
    - Status: Needs to be further refined.
      - Emphasized that APS must ensure digital learning applications are adaptive to a student's instructional level, allowing for acceleration/extension with appropriate teacher support.
      - Clarification: Apps should be accessible to all students and must serve as a supplemental tool, not a replacement for teacher-led classroom differentiation.
- Next Steps: Co-chairs will circulate a revised draft of the recommendations for review and feedback ahead of the January meeting.
- Collaboration with Other Committees: The English Learners Committee is developing a recommendation about co-taught classes, focusing on making them more interactive rather than fast-paced lectures, and addressing teacher assignment concerns. They may reach out for endorsement later.

#### VI. Update on School Board Working Group on Advisory Committees

- Status Update: The School Board Working Group has submitted its report to the board.
- Next Step: The policy implementing the working group's recommendation is scheduled to go before the School Board for public comment in January 2026.

## VII. Future Meeting Topics

- Open discussion on potential speakers or topics for the spring meetings (testing, strategic plan, committee status). Members send ideas for speakers/topics to the co-chairs.