

Arlington School Committee
Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 18, 2018 @ 4:30 p.m.

Attendance

Subcommittee Members: Jeff Thielman (Chair), Paul Schlichtman, Jane Morgan

Other SC members: Bill Hayner

District Leadership: Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. (Superintendent), Sara Burd (Director of Guidance and Social Emotional Learning)

Others: Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee members: Ann Mather, Pearl Morrison, Christopher Huvos, Miriam Stein, Regina Caines, Lynette Martyn

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. The approval of the January 16, 2018 minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

2. Public Participation

- Scott Lenzi, a Dallin parent, spoke to raise issues about the appropriateness of a survey administered to third graders at the Dallin School. He said that many of the questions seemed inappropriate for 3rd graders.
- Ara Aslanian, a Dallin parent, spoke about the survey and said it was inappropriate for third graders. He said that when he questioned why the survey was administered, he was told it was to further cultural competence. When he pressed the administrator on what cultural competence is, the staff member described what it meant to him. He researched cultural competence and found an article that said that there is no agreed upon definition of cultural competence.
- Maria Hallet, Dallin parent, spoke about the survey and said it was inappropriate and confusing to third graders.
- Lynette MartYn, a member of the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee, presented the committee with a document entitled "Valuing and Measuring the Working Progress of the APS District Goal of Cultural Competency." She noted that this document was prepared by a separate group of parents concerned about the issue.
- Ben Moynihan presented research on cultural competency and presented copies to the subcommittee.
- Miriam Stein, chair of the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee, presented the subcommittee with a document presented last year to inform the cultural competency goal.

3. Discussion of FY19 Proposed Cultural Competency Goal

- Mr. Thielman noted that Objective 1.2 (Student Achievement Goal) and Objective 2.1 (Staff Excellence and Professional Development Goal) discuss cultural competency.
- Mr. Thielman shared a document entitled “The Cultural Proficiency Continuum” from the “Engaging Nontraditional Voices Toolkit.” Dr. Bodie commented that this is the document which the district staff uses to frame cultural competency discussions.
- Dr. Bodie outlined five activities that are planned in FY19 to achieve Objective 2.1:
 - 8 hours of cultural competency professional learning per teacher
 - Define personalized learning experiences.
 - Create culturally competent modules and workshops related to the district curriculum.
 - PD teams will do data analysis
 - Train the trainers program
- Sara Burd suggested that Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and cultural proficiency aims of the district need to be synthesized. She developed the following vision statement:

“We believe that strengthening self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, interpersonal skills, and responsible decision-making skills enhances the ability to connect across real and perceived differences. We recognize that optimal social-emotional development requires an understanding of social identity, social bias, and social justice. We strive to develop and deliver pedagogy and care that achieve a synergy of social-emotional and social justice knowledge and skills.

“We believe that enhancing our social emotional competencies will strengthen our ability to connect across race, class, culture, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, learning differences, and age. This connection and understanding drives our commitment to a collaborative student- and family-centered environment which will empower our community.”

- Miriam Stein said that there needs to be more specific evidences of success for the cultural competency objective to have meaning. She said she would like to see a separate objective under Goal 1 for cultural competency, and that objective should have measurable outcomes.

4. Evaluation Timeline

- Dr. Bodie said the district was comfortable outlining objectives for FY19 that support the district’s four overarching goals. However, she said the district staff needed the summer to complete action plans and to determine which evidence it would provide to the School Committee.

- Mr. Thielman agreed to work with Dr. Bodie to modify Policy CBI to reflect this change. Mr. Thielman will speak to Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe about presenting it to the School Committee on 5.24.18.

5. CIAA Role in developing a five-year plan for APS

- The subcommittee is comfortable with the plan and timeline developed by Mr. Len Kardon, chair of the Budget subcommittee.

6. Next Meeting

- The subcommittee meets next on Tuesday, June 5th at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.