

ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Draft Minutes
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Gatehouse Administration Center, Room 5060
September 25, 2019

Members Present:

Adam Ashley (Student Representative, Kimberly Boateng)
Helen Cole (Hunter Mill, Pat Hynes)
Jane Cruz (Braddock, Megan McLaughlin)
Bryan Graham (At Large, Ryan McElveen)
Lois Passman (Mount Vernon, Karen Corbett Sanders)
Jessica Strelitz (Mason, Sandy Evans)
Irvin Varkonyi (Providence, Dalia Palchik)
Samuel Walker (At Large, Karen Keys-Gamarra)
Dolly Whelan (Dranesville, Jane Strauss)

Members Absent:

Larysa Kautz (Lee, Tammy Derenak Kaufax)
Jessica Strelitz (Mason, Sandy Evans)

Staff:

Carol Jones, ACEAC secretary and AA to Karin Williams
Paul Steiner, ACE Administrator

Members not yet appointed for 2019-2020:

Springfield (Elizabeth Schultz)
Sully (Thomas Wilson)

1. Welcome and Introduction of 2019-20 Committee Members and our new ACE Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

Paul Steiner introduced himself to the members who were not present and/or not yet appointed at the August meeting. He conducted introductions around the table, where each present representative introduced themselves by name and which member of the FCPS School Board they are representing, as well as background into their understanding and interest of Adult and Community Education. Welcome packets were distributed to the new members of the committee: Adam Ashley and John Sullivan.

2. Approval of Agenda

With no changes, the agenda for the meeting was accepted.

3. Election of Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary

The members of the ACEAC Elections Nominating Committee announced that an email was sent to all committee members regarding nominations for the annual elections of ACEAC Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. Prior to the meeting, they received one nomination for the position of Chairman (Bryan Graham), two nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman (Lois Passman, Irvin Varkonyi), and zero nominations for the position of Secretary.

Bryan Graham gave a brief candidate statement, and the committee voted for the position of Chairman. Lois Passman and Irvin Varkonyl then gave brief candidate statements, and the committee voted for the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Steiner collected the ballots and announced that Bryan Graham was elected the ACE Advisory Committee Chairman, and Irvin Varkonyl was elected Vice-Chairman.

With no committee members offering to self-nominate for the position of Secretary by the time of the meeting, Adam Ashley offered to take on the responsibilities of the position. With a unanimous agreement in favor of filling the position, Adam Ashley was elected Secretary.

4. 2019-20 ACE Advisory Committee Charge

Chairman Bryan Graham read the charge presented by the members of the school board for the 2019-2020 school year:

“Assess how the Adult and Community Education program can be better positioned to serve the lifelong learning needs of Fairfax County, to include alignment with the strategic plans of Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County.”

The committee agreed that the ultimate goal with this charge is to express the value of ACE as a whole to the school board members. Several committee members also regarded that some of the school board members that are generally in favor of funding ACE still have questions on the validity of some of the parts of programs.

Irvin Varknoyl made a point that several School Board members (Moon, McElveen, Evans, Palchik, Strauss) are no longer going to be on the board, and almost all incumbents are facing competitive races. This means the opinions on ACE of the School Board now may shift after the elections. It was noted that it is rare that committee members are replaced by the new

school board members, but that they could do so when their terms start. That being said, the current Board members will begin developing the ACE Budget for FY 2021, the committee still needs to make a strong impression on them of the importance of ACE and retaining the increased transfer.

Bryan Graham articulated that the main focus of our committee with the charge at hand is to decide how to express the success of specific ACE programs, as well as ACE as a whole. Paul Steiner said there are several factors to determine the “success” of a course, including both cost and enrollment. The chart in the Welcome Packet detailing enrollment in programs during the 2018-19 school year was referenced, but Paul Steiner mentioned that enrollment of courses that only meet once or twice are measured the same as apprenticeship courses that meet over longer periods of time. Several committee members wanted to see revenue being brought in by each of these programs to quantify how successful said programs are.

The committee also discussed how, with school board members potentially moving over to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, that ACE could better align its programs with One Fairfax and their goal of lifelong learning and workplace readiness. This could also benefit ACE, as some members of the School Board believe that the county should provide ACE funding. Irvin Varkonyl asked if ACE enrichment courses (such as culinary and foreign film courses) would qualify as courses we should bring to One Fairfax.

John Sullivan reminds the committee that the people taking courses like foreign films are likely retired and that ultimately makes it a money-making venture. Helen Cole articulates that we should not ditch money-making courses, but if there are ways to provide free or subsidized costs for courses to individuals that have recently been released from detention centers, it would more so line-up with the goals of One Fairfax. Lois Passman also expresses that the goal of the ACE programs are to bring in people that are otherwise not going to schools and FCPS buildings, and how we frame the presentation of information to the School Board, as well as who ACE is benefitting, is important.

Bryan Graham states that money is always the issue it comes back to, and that the alignment of programming and financial questions regarding ACE are the topics that were brought up at the recent School Board meeting. Therefore, it is important for the committee to be able to effectively convey the financial aspects of ACE so that the School Board does not think that ACE Fund programs are wasting money. Bryan Graham says the committee needs to make sure the courses and content ACE is providing aligns with needs in the county workforce. Irvin Varkonyl stated that reaching out to these organizations or companies is the best way to find out exactly what they want. Paul Steiner mentioned that bringing outreach specialists from companies is going to be beneficial for ACE, as the network of other advisory committees (such as CTEAC) allows for them to thrive. He again states that in his position, they are working to find out how to quantify the benefits of certain classes effectively.

5. Decision of Meeting Focuses

The committee voted unanimously on alterations to the original meeting schedule, as well as focus topics for each meeting:

September 25: Set work plan

October 23: Data ask and Staff response

November 20: Begin Analysis

January 22: Programming alignment, organization of recommendation ideas

February 26: Continue the organization of recommendation ideas

March 25: Formulate recommendations

April 22: Work session on the report

May 7: School Board Adult Education Recognition at Jackson (meeting if needed)

May 22: Vote on final report/draft charge for 2020-2021

June 3: Extra meeting date to continue final report and 2020-2021 charge if necessary

June (Date TBD): Presentation to School Board

6. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Irvin Varkonyl and seconded by Adam Ashley. The meeting of the Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee was adjourned at 7:55 PM.