

# Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee

April 26, 2023

## Committee Members in Attendance

Jennifer Adeli (Dranesville, Tholen)  
Sean Arthurs (Franconia, Derenak Kaufax)  
Ken Balbuena (Braddock, McLaughlin)  
Susan Beeman (At-Large, Sizemore Heizer)  
Selim Mimaroglu (Sully, Pekarsky)  
Amy Thiam (Student Representative)

William Brown (At-Large, Keys-Gamarra)  
Javier Caballero Cantatero (Mason, Anderson)  
Helen Cole (Hunter Mill, Meren)  
Jesse Hwang (Providence, Frisch)  
Lois Passman (Mount Vernon, Corbett-Sanders)  
William Brown (At-Large, Keys-Gamarra)

## Committee Members Absent

Rasha Abulohom (At-Large, Omeish)

Johnelle Sweet (Springfield, Cohen)

## Staff and Guest in Attendance

Karin Williams, Director, OSPC  
Michelle Morgan, Administrator, Adult HS  
Joe Thompson, Administrator, Nontraditional Schools

Paul Steiner, Administrator, ACE  
Jan Garcia, Manager, ACE Finance & Operations  
Monica Iskander, Staff Assistant, OSPC

The regular meeting of the Fairfax County School Board's Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee (ACEAC) was called to order on April 26, 2023, at 7:00 pm by Ken Balbuena, ACEAC Chair. The meeting was held in room 5039 of 8270 Willow Oaks Administrative Center, Falls Church, VA 22042 with an option to attend virtually via Zoom.

### 1. Review and Approval of the Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved.

### 2. Chair Remarks

- a. Ken Balbuena shared that the Core Planning team met last week to discuss the latest iteration of the new Strategic Planning Goals. He shared the following:

- i. Goal 1 – Start strong, successful transitions preK-12
  - ii. Goal 2 – Safe, supported, included, and empowered
  - iii. Goal 3 – Academic growth and excellence
  - iv. Goal 4 – Equitable access and opportunity
  - v. Goal 5 – Leading for tomorrow’s innovation. Every student will graduate ready to thrive in life after high school with the skills to adapt and innovate in the future.
- b. Ken shared the School Board will vote on the strategic plan on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. Susan Beeman asked where this information could be found. Ken shared all the information is on the FCPS Strategic Plan webpage.
  - c. The ACEAC presentation to the School Board will be on June 27<sup>th</sup>, and the report is due to the School Board June 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Ken reminded the committee that Dr. Reid will attend the May 17<sup>th</sup> ACEAC meeting, which will be held at the Plum Center for Lifelong Learning.

### **3. Review and Approval of March Minutes**

- a. Lois Passman asked the group to review a few outstanding questions and email her any missing details in the minutes. Approval of the minutes will be deferred to be approved at the next meeting.

### **4. Liaison Updates**

- a. Dr. Anderson was unable to attend the meeting. She provided written notes to Ken with updates on the SR&R, Regulation updates, and the school bond.
- b. Amy Thiam, Student Representative, shared she did not have any updates. She will be unable to attend the May meeting because she graduates on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Updates from Fairfax County Adult High School, and Adult and Community Education will be shared via email. ACEAC Programmatic Updates can be found here. ACEAC Programmatic Updates can be found [here](#).
  - i. Dr. Michelle Morgan provided a few quick updates about the Fairfax County Adult High School, including enrollment updates and that a career fair is scheduled for May 8. Graduation is June 8.
  - ii. Dr. Morgan also referenced efforts to maximize stackable credentials (view the Department of Labor’s [toolkit](#) for reference).

### **5. Joe Thompson, Special Projects Administrator for Non-Traditional Schools Programs (NSP)**

- a. Joe Thompson shared that his goal this year has been to reassess all the programs that fall under the umbrella of non-traditional schools within FCPS. Non-traditional programs are offered from pre-K through adult education at

over 40 sites. Non-traditional settings range across the county from adult detention centers, hospitals, home-bound, and brick and mortar buildings. Throughout this reassessment, his goal was to see how these programs could be better aligned to lower cost and increase enrollment.

- b.** Joe shared that he was able to review the FY 22 Annual report, specifically around access to programs. He shared that in response to this concern, NSP launched its Credit Recovery Program to additional sites across the county and evening hours. As of now, 85 students have enrolled. This program is aimed to give resources to students who need additional credit to graduate on time. NSP has included a “Twilight Program” offering that is from 4-6pm.
- c.** Joe shared that the Adult High School in Fairfax County is unique in that it is an accredited high school within the Commonwealth of Virginia. No other neighboring state has that status. This allows adult learners the opportunity to take SOLs and earn a standard diploma versus an adult high school diploma. FCPS has programs across the county during the day and evening hours. Joe shared that data reports that 80% of the students in this program are within the school age limit and can access programs at their local school, but due to life circumstances they need the flexibility of the program.
- d.** FCPS also offers another track to graduation, the High School Equivalency (HSE), which culminates in students earning a GED. FCPS holds state funding for the northern region. This is not a K-12 model that awards a standard diploma, and is, therefore, counted differently when reported to the state. Due to this, many forms of reporting must be done differently from our other K-12 programs. For next year, Joe is proposing moving the HSE program under the ACE program. There are many reasons Joe believes this is more advantages for the program. A couple benefits for moving the program are that the same registration program is used for ACE and HSE, data collection is similar, and the reporting aligns more with ACE than with a K-12 program. Many of the barriers adult learners face when registering will be eliminated with the switch to ACE. Joe sought feedback from ACEAC members that will inform his final recommendation to the Superintendent.

  - i.** Selim Mimaroglu asked who benefits from non-traditional programs? All students who need intervention (medical, academic, social emotional) that they are not able to access in a large school setting. The program is primarily K-12.
  - ii.** William Brown asked what the cost per service is? Unlike the K-12 setting, NSP calculates cost per service and not cost per student. The majority of NSP students are already enrolled in their base school and need additional services of NSP teachers, which is why the cost of service is calculated. The average cost of service is \$20,000 per service.
  - iii.** William Brown asked what the average time to complete the different graduations tracks is. Often, students arrive over age and under credited and with many life obstacles. The average time can depend on what

- obstacles they may have. Some students need expedited pathways while others need a much slower pathway.
- iv. William Brown asked how many NSP locations there are and whether virtual classes are offered? Transition Support Resource Center (TSRC) are in 20 different locations across the county, 13 of which are in base school locations. Other sites are on the bus route for easier access. They are considering opening another site in the west side of the county. Currently, virtual classes are not routinely offered.
  - v. Ken Balbuena asked if the funding received from the state is enough to cover all costs. No, the state funding is only a sliver of the total cost to run these programs. Ken also asked how the transfer of HSE to ACE would affect the ACE fund and the General Operational Fund. Currently, yes, there is an MOU with the state to ensure staffing is fulfilled.
  - vi. Lois Passman reminded the committee that HSE used to be part of ACE, but a few years ago HSE was moved to NSP.
  - vii. Joe shared that in his proposal he will align this move with the strategic plan and its goals and pillars.
  - viii. William requested a one-page matrix of cost versus benefits and risks versus rewards of ACEAC supporting this initiative. This might help everyone understand the full picture. Joe agreed to bring more specifics to the table at the May ACEAC meeting.
  - ix. Lois Passman asked if all the NSP programs will move to ACE. Joe explained it would only be the HSE program. Lois also requested a demographic breakdown of HSE students for the May meeting.

## 6. Subcommittee Report

- a. The Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee (Lois Passman and Helen Cole) has met and created an outline of goals and tasks. Ken Balbuena will send out the detailed document to the rest of the committee via email.
- b. The Strategic Marketing Subcommittee (Ken Balbuena and Jennifer Adeli) met with RMR Marketing to discuss strategic marketing. The subcommittee plans to document highlights of the meeting in the Annual Report.
- c. William and Johnelle met with ACE leaders and requested data and surveys which will be provided to the committee soon.

## 7. Annual Report Initial Discussion

- a. Ken Balbuena shared the ACEAC 2023 working draft document. He shared the general layout of the report in Google Docs, which has minimal sections filled in and FY22 content for reference.
- b. Selim asked what recommendations are implemented and if there is any feedback from the previous report. Karin shared there is a Staff Response on

BoardDocs. Ken added that the School Board also took some actions, which was discussed at one of the first meetings of this term.

- c. Ken shared that subcommittees would be responsible for writing their own sections like with the FY22 Annual report but that he would do a final review to ensure a common voice across the document.

## **8. Closing Remarks**

- a. Ken Balbuena adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm following a motion of unanimous consent.