

Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee

May 17, 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)
Rasha Abulohom (At-Large, Omeish)

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

Committee Members Absent

Amy Thiam (Student Representative)

Staff and Guest in Attendance

Dr. Michelle Reid, Superintendent
Karin Williams, Director, OSPC
Michelle Morgan, Administrator, Adult HS
MaryAnn Cunningham Florez, Manager, Adult ESOL

Dr. Lisa Hall, Chief Experience Officer
Paul Steiner, Administrator, ACE
Rich Pollio, Director, ESOL
Shekera Alverado, Manager, ACE Regional Grant

The regular meeting of the Fairfax County School Board's Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee (ACEAC) was called to order on June 21, 2023, at 7:00 pm by Ken Balbuena, ACEAC Chair. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

- 1. Review and Approval of the Agenda**
 - a. The agenda was reviewed and approved.
- 2. Chair Remarks**
 - a. Ken did not have any chair remarks.
- 3. Review and Approval of March and April Minutes**
 - a. The group reviewed and approved the March minutes.
 - b. The group reviewed and approved the April minutes.

4. Liaison Updates

- a. Karin Williams shared updates around ACE's "Online Anytime" courses. The team added 5,000 new courses to the "Online Anytime" course catalog. In collaboration with the marketing company RMR, a marketing campaign has been launched. In one week, there has been an increase in registrations.
- b. Rich Polio shared Adult ESOL has increased enrollment since last year by 61%. Most classes are back in person and thriving. They are shifting online classes to in-person classes. The ESOL office is also encountering hiring challenges.
 - i. Johnelle Sweet asked if grant money could be used to supplement incentives for attracting new teachers. Shekera shared that funding cannot be used for monetary incentives. Funds can be used to supplement student experience. Rich Pollio also explained that whether funds are paid through FCPS or grant funds the pay still must follow FCPS pay band rates.
 - ii. Rasha Abulohom asked how the increase in enrollment has affected staffing. MaryAnn Cunningham Florez shared there is an impact on staffing as well as increased class sizes. Johnelle asked if they could use the teacher residence pipeline to help staff their ESOL vacancies. Mary Ann shared they have started looking at different opportunities to bring teachers or teachers in residence into teaching.
- c. The remaining liaison updates will be shared via email.

5. Discussion with Dr. Michelle Reid, FCPS Superintendent

- a. Dr. Reid and Dr. Hall arrived. The committee and staff introduced themselves.
- b. Dr. Reid started by asking data on Adult High School completion.
 - i. Dr. Morgan shared that the diploma program had 64 graduates last year and 45 completed the GED (FCPS Adult HS). This does not include the detention center. As of May, there have been 8 graduates from the adult diploma program for the 2023 school year. Graduation is later in June with many more graduates expected. The diploma program has 80% school age students (18-21). The GED program has 90% of their students are over the age of 20.
- c. Dr. Reid asked how long members have been appointed to the committee. Ken shared many members have been on the committee for many years (one-year appointments) and that there are two new committee members this year.
- d. Dr. Reid asked what the committee goals are for the program.
 - i. Johnelle shared they grapple with how ACE has different programs under its umbrella, but they are very different due to different diploma standards. Johnelle shared her subcommittee's charge was to see how FCPS could partner with the Board of Supervisors to help support the needs of our community. The needs range from adults accessing a diploma or a skillset that helps them in their trade.

- ii. Ken shared another charge is to analyze ACE's self-sustaining funding model. One recommendation would be to take some larger funds and transfer it to the School Operating Fund to release funds for instruction, which was a recommendation for the committee's FY22 Annual Report.
- e. Dr. Reid shared that in Washington state, there is no driver's education in the K-12 system. Paul Steiner shared we have 50 vehicles on the road daily. Students pay tuition. It is tiered for free and reduced lunch students. There is a state regulation capping the amount of money we can charge for tuition. Tuition is \$355, which is less expensive than most private courses in the area. An advantage to taking driver's education with ACE is that they are in the car with a licensed FCPS teacher. Courses are frequently sold out because it is very popular. She also suggested looking at tuition and possibly implementing a lab fee to help cover replacement of vehicles.
- f. Dr. Morgan shared tuition for the Adult High School is also driven by regulation, \$160 for the year and \$80 for the semester.
- g. Ken shared a recommendation to partner with the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC) since it may be a pipeline to ACE. Ken informed Dr. Reid that CTEAC's chair presented at a committee meeting earlier in the term.
- h. Paul shared information on Trade for Tomorrow (T4T) – trade skills instructional classes that are required to start journeyman training. Currently, 742 apprenticeship students are enrolled. We are the largest adult training program in the state. Students can start curriculum in 11/12 grade and continue in ACE. They can qualify for their tests early. Students must enroll in classes to maintain FCPS employment. This is a great program to provide an alternative post-secondary pipeline.
- i. Dr. Reid was excited to hear about the program but asked how our communities find out about these opportunities. Karin said marketing is getting out through high school career counselors. This has been a project for a few years. Paul and staff go to high schools directly to speak with students and career counselors with more than 50 school visits this year. They also work with Dr. Morgan to increase the pipeline. ACE is always at every high school career fair, but there is still a need for more marketing.
- j. Dr. Reid asked if the Office of Communication and Community Relations (OCCR) does ACE's marketing. Ken shared they utilize OCCR with website support and reposting social media threads. Karin shared that in addition to boots on the ground we hired RMR Marketing to help focus our marketing strategies. Many committee members shared their feelings around access to apprenticeship programs in the county. FCPS tends to push the college track and many students don't have the opportunity to learn about trades until 11th or 12th grade. The

County offers academy classes but due to travel and required credits, many students don't have the ability to access these opportunities within K-12. Many students who need these pipelines the most end up encountering many challenges.

- k. Ken raised the concern over renovations and updates on ACE buildings. Ken would like for ACE programs to be considered in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) cycle. Rich Pollio shared that FCPS has many great programs and partnership, but, unfortunately, many of these programs are housed in some of the most marginalized buildings in our County.
- l. Johnelle shared the change in dynamic within the County creates challenges to meet every student's needs. In working in FCPS she has noticed many newcomers may qualify for a K-12 setting, but they may be a better fit for the Adult High School for a number of reasons. FCPS needs to consider more opportunities to fit the needs of our very diverse student population. The location of programs is a huge challenge. The Centreville area is in desperate need for more resources. For a student from Centreville to access evening programs, they would have to navigate a 2-hour bus ride, one way.
- m. The group discussed other options for finding instructors or creating a pipeline for educators.
- n. The committee thanked Dr. Reid and Dr. Hall for sharing their time.

6. Subcommittee Report

- a. Data Analysis Subcommittee: Selim and Susan shared they met with Karin to talk about how AI can be used for instruction. He has not had the time to review the documents provided by Karin but will provide feedback via email
 - i. Ken asked how he sees AI and machine learning? Selim shared a high-level predictive modeling can be used for predictive outcomes, personalized learning, data analysis and more. Automation is another big area, and machine learning/AI can assist with natural language processing and ChatGPT.

7. Annual Report Discussion

- a. Ken and the committee reviewed the draft report and made several revisions. The report will be finalized during a working session via Zoom on May 24th. Voting will be done via email.

8. Closing Remarks

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