

## Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee March 15, 2023

	<b>Committee Members</b>				<b>Staff and Guests</b>
A	Abulohom, Rasha (At-Large, Omeish)	P	Hwang, Jesse (Providence, Frisch)	P	Steiner, Paul
<u>P</u>	Adeli, Jennifer (Dransville, Tholen)	P	Mimaroglu, Selim (Sully, Pekarsky)	<u>P</u>	Iskander, Monica
P	Caballero Cantatero, Javier (Mason, Anderson)	P	Passman, Lois (Mount Vernon, Corbett-Sanders)	P	Morgan, Michelle
A	Arthurs, Sean (Franconia, Derenak Kaufax)	P	Sweet, Johnelle (Springfield, Cohen)	<u>P</u>	Williams, Karin
<u>P</u>	Balbuena, Ken (Braddock, McLaughlin)	P	Thiam, Amy (Student Representative)	A	Dr. Ricardy Anderson
P	Beeman, Susan (At-Large, Sizemore Heizer)	P	Brown, William (At-Large, Keys-Gamarra)		
P	Cole, Helen (Hunter Mill, Meren)				

P: Present (in-Person)  
P: Present (virtually)  
 A: Absent

The regular meeting of the Fairfax County School Board's Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee (ACEAC) was called to order on March 15, 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 updates on the Strategic Plan. He shared the core team has finalized draft goals and pillars. He noted they are very similar to other districts with a consistent framework. All of the goals are student-centered while the pillars are meant to focus on how educators help support goals. He shared concerns that the final draft goals didn't feel organic because of how closely it followed a pre-established framework.
- b. Dr. Anderson shared that many members of the School Board also felt the same concerns but also felt like there needs to be a starting point. She shared there are opportunities for parents and community members to share their opinions. They do not want anyone in our community to feel unheard or left behind. She urged everyone to participate in the feedback surveys.
- c. Ken provided a link to the survey:  
<https://survey.k12insight.com/survey1.aspx?k=RQsSUWWYsQUSsPsPsP&lang=0>.
- d. Ken also shared a link to the Strategic Plan website: <https://www.fcps.edu/strategicplanning>.
  - i. Johnelle Sweet shared she participated on one of the community forums, and she also had the same experience; however, she does see changes in the new draft goals versus what the draft goals were that were presented at her community forum. This shows the consultants are listening to feedback. A new concern is how does one unpack and deliver such overarching goals. What do these goals look like in action? She also shared staff did not feel like they were reflected in the proposed goals and pillars.

- ii. Selim asked if there are any ramifications to ACE. Ken shared that Goal 5 focuses on success after the K-12 system. The other goals are focused on K-12.
- 3. Review Future Meeting Formats**
- a. Moving forward, the ACE Advisory Committee needs to try to attend in person. We will continue to offer a hybrid option. Dr. Reid will attend the meeting in May, and that meeting will be in-person. The location is still to be determined.
  - b. Due to Ramadan and other conflicts, Ken will send an email communication to see if the April meeting could be moved to the 26<sup>th</sup> instead of the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Review and Approval of February Minutes**
- a. The group reviewed a few minor grammar corrections. Michelle Morgan corrected enrollment numbers. After corrections, the minutes were approved.
- 5. School Board Updates**
- a. Dr. Ricardy Anderson shared the School Board has approved the budget. Funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is still pending. Dr. Anderson is concerned the school system will not receive full funding from the county. The calculation error by the state is still undetermined. The School Board also approved collective bargaining.
    - i. Paul Steiner shared ACE staff are part-time hourly which would exempt them from collective bargaining.
    - ii. Dr. Morgan shared her staff is a combination of hourly teachers and contracted teachers.
- 6. Student Rep Updates**
- a. Amy Thiam shared she has enjoyed learning a lot about ACE. She thought ACE was part of Fairfax County Park Authority and not FCPS. ACE should start to market on Instagram to reach more people in her age group.
- 7. Adult High School Administrator Updates**
- a. Dr. Michelle Morgan shared enrollment updates. As of the end of February, the Diploma Program has 283 students enrolled; the High School Equivalency (HSE) Program has 174 students enrolled.
  - b. The Adult High School (AHS) team has started a partnership with the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute as part of the Institutions & Corrections Grant. In addition to serving students in the Adult Detention Center, they are now starting services at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute.
  - c. The team had their first meeting for the Adult High School graduation. The date is June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at Thomas Jefferson High School.
    - i. Selim asked if they have been awarded other grants. Dr. Morgan shared (High School Equivalency) HSE has 5 grants and they have applied for the same grants for next year. The remainder of their funds come from operational funds.
- 8. Adult and Community Education (ACE) Administrator Updates**
- a. Paul Steiner, ACE Administrator, shared a presentation on Accelerated Workforce Education (AWE) and Trades for Tomorrow (T4T). This program is meant to provide a soft transition from high schools to ACE courses. The PowerPoint can be found: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1TShpAooCSL5QJPKNduQQnV46HvSv6tag/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100798261808149996820&rtpof=true&sd=true>.
    - i. William Brown asked if Business & IT also included certifications. Paul shared that certifications are currently offered, and they are bringing more course offerings into the online anytime format.
    - ii. Selim asked what the difference is between AWE and regular ACE classes. Paul shared that the classes are the same, but AWE also provides wrap-around support, such as food, housing, counseling, resume writing, etc. These classes meet with “helpers.” Focus is ages 17 -24.
    - iii. Johnelle shared how excited she was to learn about AWE and the ability to reach students with career opportunities other than the college path. She also asked if ACE has career counselors. Paul explained they do have counselors, but they are not assigned to specific schools or students. The program is hoping to expand access to career counselors.

- iv. Rasha asked if these students receive accommodations. Paul shared that ACE partners with the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS) to get students the accommodations they need.
- v. Ken asked who funds Trades for Tomorrow. Funds come from the Facilities Operating Fund. This program is meant to train students to work for FCPS and fill entry level roles in FCPS.
- vi. Dr. Anderson shared that she spoke with facilities last week and they are very excited for the Trades for Tomorrow program. She also shared with Dr. Reid that locations or programs are integral for this program's success across the county. Dr. Anderson asked if ACE has social marketing online. Paul shared ACE has Twitter and Facebook that are actively updated with content. ACE also has an Instagram program that needs to be reinvigorated.
- vii. Paul shared the new catalog will be distributed by mail within the next week. Ken suggested ACE add a QR code to sign up for the newsletter in all marketing material for a more integrative marketing approach that builds off of RMR Marketing's presentation at the February ACEAC meeting. Paul also shared he will add the ACE staff members to the newsletter distribution list.
- viii. Lois asked for a financial report (return on investment) on the new marketing program. Karin shared they will review a financial report next month.

**9. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Subcommittees will continue to meet and will prepare to share at the next meeting.

**10. Closing Remarks**

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