

MINUTES
Title I Parent Advisory Committee (TPAC)
Virtual Meeting

Executive Board Meeting No. 5
April 29, 2020
Citizen Advisory Committee

1. MEETING OPENING

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. with the following Executive Board members present: Mike Woltz, Chair (Belvedere); Nina Benghanem, Vice Chair (Timber Lane); Christina Robinson (Rose Hill); Josie Rivera (Bren Mar Park); Roberto “Ho” De Moraes (Dogwood); Kara Danner (Pine Spring); Sampson Addo (Riverside); and Heather Hale, Teacher Liaison (Weyanoke). FCPS staff included Leona Smith-Vance and Dr. Evonne DeNome, both from Office of Professional Learning and Family Engagement (OPLFE).

2. DISCUSSION

When Fairfax County Public Schools “returns to learn” what do you want schools to be mindful of?

The Executive Board members identified the following considerations:

- ALL emphasized safety and well-being as key considerations.
- Access to technology, to include internet access needs to be a priority.
- Flexible options – one approach won’t work for all families and it’s unrealistic to re-open for all!
- Implementing growth measure for all students and evaluating on individual progress.
- Family dynamics: single households, work schedules and locations;
- Disparity among students: variety of learning experiences
- Reasonable distance learning demands and expectations
- Flexibility within the school day: learning vs. sitting vs. movement
- Flexible learning time with choice: Saturday, Sunday, evenings, extended year, year-round considerations.
- Look at other countries having success.
- Look at successful homeschool models.
- Additional language translation and interpreters
- Provide greater training to parents to support home learning
- Clearly defining what engagement looks like. Being present is not always learning
- GRACE mindset – FCPS was not “available” the week of April 13, despite many schools, students, and families being ready, so patience and grace had to be shown until a workable system could be implemented; there needs to be the same grace with students, who previously, while present in a classroom, may not have been “available” for learning, but still expected to make grades/complete assignments on time.
- Flexible attendance and grading options.
- More formalized processes within FCPS.

- Greater communication with ALL families.
- Being flexible with education is great, but flexible with health is not an option!
- Be mindful of social-emotional needs of students, families and staff
- Be mindful of staff burnout!

If COVID-19 is no longer around, what should school look like to mitigate loss.

The Executive Board members identified the following considerations:

- Lengthen school year by two weeks (week before/after).
- Year-round school with intersessions was very popular.
 - Hybrid model school day like college – some grade level spans on certain days
 - Restructure day with Reading and Math emphasis
 - Group was adamant that Science and Social Studies (identity) needs to be embedded within and not moved to wayside but with greater flexibility for schools.
- No mention of longer school day!!!!

If COVID-19 remains, what should school look like?

The Executive Board members identified the following considerations:

- Hybrid model was emphasis with Board
- Flexibility with “time” and student choice to allow greater student efficiency -lots of thoughts on families that cannot help during the day. Could there be some evening classes and Saturday classes for working families?
- Two members named that self-paced instruction and additional sleep has had a TRANSFORMATIVE impact on their children!
- Staggering face-to-face options (blue day/green day)

“Return to Learn” Communication

The Executive Board determined that greater input to reflect the needs of the Title I Community were needed to inform decision-making around “Return to Learn”. As a result, the Board determined a virtual Committee Meeting should be held using the May 12, 2020 date, originally scheduled.

3. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The final 2020-2021 TPAC General Session will be a virtual meeting on May 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM