

Superintendent's Advisory Council On Instruction

Minutes

October 10, 2019

APPROVED

7:05 Welcome Mrs. Karen Martin, chairwoman, Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction (SACI)

Introductions: Ken Bassett, Director of Student Learning, Rita Goss, Associate Superintendent for Student and Professional Learning

Introduction of Ms. Sarah Espinosa, Ombudsman, Prince William County School Board

Serves as a resource to help parents, students, and members of the school community in addressing issues by listening and exploring available options.

Superintendent's Message: Dr. Steve Walts, Superintendent of Schools

This is the most involved Advisory Council. One of the key roles you have is to share information between your school and the Council. This Council submits a report at the end of the year. And this report influences the discussion on the policies and procedures in the Division. For example, the homework policy has been changed numerous times and those changes are the direct result of input from this Council.

Ten Reasons to be Excited About Prince William County Public Schools and Focus For the Year Ahead

10) Facilities, Renovations, Additions- 11 Million + sq ft of facilities.

- 99 Schools in the Division,
- Dr. Walts has opened 24 schools since coming to PWCS

9) Transportation

- 73,351 students eligible to ride the bus (close to 60,000 who are eligible rides each day)
- 699 buses on the road (every bus is air conditioned)
- 3750 routes
- 80,000 miles per day

- 697 drivers
- 180 bus attendants
- 135 substitutes

8) Technology Improvements

- 6500 + devices refreshed
- 100K+ in credit card payments
- Electronic contracts for employees-

90% of our budget is salary related. As much as we want to do more, we value our employees and they are our number 1 priority. Even during the great recession we never laid off any employees.

7) The Hub- this transition went much better than the last transition

- 20 years of student data
- 280,000 students
- 21 million data records
- 500,000 logins week one
- 50,000 messages week one

6) Food services

- Breakfast- 9711
- Lunch 49,155

We won the state award for the breakfast challenge. We have implemented a second chance breakfast in the high schools before second period.

5) Mental Health and Well-being Support

- a. 55 new counselors
- b. Additional psychologists and social workers
- c. Full time nurse at every school

The country is beginning to see that the testing environment is not good for our children. It leads to stress. We are learning from research about what is effective with homework. Most effective has to do with reading outside of school, interdisciplinary projects, and modest practice. And most of us at some point in our life will have problems within our family. And we need to address that side of the student as well. We are starting to see the number of tests coming down. This year we have made major changes in the mental health support structure.

Say something program- reporting system that is always monitored that students can report concerns. It will be rolling out as an app later this year.

4) Our Community

Unanimous budget approval by School Board and Board of Supervisors.

Spark Grants- Students can apply for grants to help fund innovations.

3) Our Parents and Guardians

2) Our Teachers and Administrators

- 100% Full Accreditation- All schools are in the top tier.
- 882 new teachers and administrators
- 1049 new hires
- 11,801 employees

Double digit Increase in Math SOL Scores for Student with Disabilities and English Learners.

1) Our Students

91,000+ (up 400 from the projection) 34.4% Hispanic, 30% White, 20% African America, 9% Asian, 40% Economically Disadvantaged

92%+ on time graduation rate

Our focus on Students

1) Culture and Engagement-

Kindness matters

First impressions

Have FUN!

Twitter comes right to Dr. Walts. (SuperPWCS)

4 other people monitor this account.

Used to engage students and parents.

Attended 199 school events last year.

- 2) Instruction and Assessment
 - Clear learning objectives
 - Compassionate Grading – all students learn differently
 - Grading for Mastery- not for reward/punishment
 - Ongoing real- time feedback- interims eliminated
 - Homework- meaningful and limited.
- 3) Innovative and Professional Development
 - Strategic Planning- Vision 2020
 - School Continuous Improvement Plans
 - CTE Expansion
 - Future Ready Grants
 - PWCS Academy
- 4) Resources and Tools
 - The Hub
 - Teach Town
 - Perform (TalentED) and Streamlined Performance Assessment
 - Assistive Technology

Questions (questions and answers are paraphrased)

- 1) A question was asked about the new way of teaching math and if there was a way to recognize teachers who are doing a great job in providing resources to parents on the new way of teaching math. A question was also asked about programs in place in other schools that do not have teachers who are providing these resources.
 - a. There are a lot of different ways schools are helping parents learn through parent nights, etc. We are trying to build the understanding of why math works the way it does. To highlight any teacher you think is doing a great job, you can send Dr. Walts a message through Twitter, he will read them.
- 2) A question was asked about school start times and where we stand on making changes to them. A second question was asked about innovated learning methods such as the flipped classrooms. What is on the horizon?
 - a. Start time- In order to change the times so that they do not mess the whole system up you have to balance many things. Fairfax pumped millions into additional buses to make it work. We get thousands less per child. Changing start times at this time is not currently considered a critical need, even though it is an important issue and Dr. Walts would support it. But there are so many other competing priorities. Don't see that happening unless there is a big change in the amount we receive from the County budget.
 - b. Learning methods- Innovations in how kids to learn- with any change it is as effective as the implementation. It is successful if well implemented. We are at the forefront at having technology assist students in learning. Ex. Go into virtual classrooms. One

example is a AP History teaching using Minecraft to build and design ancient cities in. WE are going to see some more creative ways in engaging students.

- 3) Questions were asked about technology in the division and the accessibility being the same in all schools
 - a. Technology is a part of student's world. We have embedded a goal in each teacher's appraisal a technology goal. It can be difficult to get everyone to get on board. We are also seeing changes in the access to technology. We are starting to see technology pay off in bigger dividends.
 - b. You are going to see more cohesion in the district. We are working towards the accessibility being the same in all schools.

Orientation for the Council

Introduction of the Officers:

3 elementary level: Lisa Darcy, Tracy Blake, Ann Marie White

Middle School: Michael Kier

High School: Doresa Pickett

Secretary: Vanessa Olson

We will have a longer orientation next month.

The SACI webpage can be found at www.pwcs.edu – Parents- Advisory Committees – Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction. This is where you will find the yearly agenda, agendas for each meeting, minutes, and copies of the presentations.

A couple of important things to note: Our last meeting of the year will take place in April and in February we will be holding our Best Practices Conference for Parents

Icebreaker activity: At each table the expectations for the year and responsibilities of the members were discussed.

Next month our topic will be mental health. Normally we hold a work session to identify the specific questions and concerns, as well as what is going well within the topic. This month we will ask you to identify the positives and your questions and concerns on the provided index cards. These cards will be collected and passed along to our presenters.

Adjourn 9:04