Advisory Committee on Teaching and Learning (ACTL)

Minutes

Syphax Building, rooms 254/256/258

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Present: Marietta Palmer, Kelli Bergin, Michael Cieslak, Melissa Hyatt, Tia Alfred, David Rowland, Heather Toronjo, Jill Abbott, Todd Truitt, Trisha Anderson, Ginnie Gordon, Kate McKenney, Janet Sater, Cloe Chin, Vivek Nakarmi, Jerome Terrell Fleming, Kelly Krug, David Siu, Dr. Darrell Sampson, Adora Williams, Dat Le, Caroline Rogus, Kirstin Pickle, Sarah Putnam, Anne Paris, Jenny Roahen Rizzo

Attending via Zoom: Kristen Parsons, Sara Kirschner, Wendy Pizer, Jocelyn Gould, **Jimisha** Relerford, **Jennifer Wheelock**

7:00 pm, Welcome/approve minutes from November meeting (Jenny Roahen Rizzo)

Jenny Roahen Rizzo reviewed meeting norms and gave an overview of the subcommittee recommendation process.

7:10, Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) report (David Siu, Kelly Krug, Jennifer Wheelock)

Recommendation #1: Increase hourly staffing during unstructured time.

Recommendation #2. Open up classes currently available only to students with an IEP to those with a 504, and in the long term consider how these courses can be open to all students.

Recommendation #3: Explicitly indicate that students with disabilities are eligible for "rigorous courses" including new "intensified" courses at the middle school level.

7:35, Science Advisory Committee report (Kristen Parsons, Dat Le)

Recommendation: Provide school-based science coaches at each elementary school to mentor and support science teachers. These coaches provide professional development and training, ensure the implementation of the science curriculum, model inquiry-based instruction in the classroom, lead and facilitate professional learning communities, monitor student progress, and coordinate direct remediation and interventions.

7:55, Social Studies Advisory Committee report (Caroline Rogus, Terrell Fleming)

Recommendation: Hire a full-time elementary school specialist in Social Studies education.

8:15, Student Services Advisory Committee report (Adora Williams, Kirstin Pickle, Darrell Sampson)

Recommendation #1: Social and Emotional Learning programs for all secondary students should include timely and relevant topics, ample student and staff voice, comprehensive staff training with opportunities to practice implementation, and support to school staff teaching SEL.

Recommendation #2: The committee concurs with the staff liaison's recommendation of hiring a Director of Student Wellness & Support and two Student Services Specialists while recognizing

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