November 16th, 2022 Meeting

Attendees:

Mary Sanders

Maria Jacoby

Kirstin Kelly

Desiree Jaworski (Chair)

James Vell Rives

Alison Babb

Karin Beecroft – School Health Nurses

Amy McCloskey - Director of Food Services

Dr. Kristen Delaney – Supervisor Counseling Services

Jenny Sexton – Substance Abuse Counselor

Dr. Darrell Sampson – Executive Director Student Services

* Introductions
* Announcements from the Chair:
  + It is not required to attend ACTL meetings as the Chair but recommended by Desiree as they are interesting. The last meeting was on SEL (Social-Emotional Learning). They had an 89% response rate from the Fall of 2022 survey which is much higher than the year before. APS staff clarified it is “not a mental health screener.” The ACTL meeting also had a [presentation on Math](https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Math-presentation-ACTl-2Nov22.pdf) and math interventions for learning loss.
* APS Staff Updates
  + Athletics are going well and Middle School is thriving. The High School program has to use commercial buses if transportation is needed prior to 5 PM. The new bell schedule was supposed to help allow normal school buses for sports transportations but that hasn’t borne out in actuality this year. The AD Coordinators schedule the bus shuttling.
  + Family Life curriculum will be posted in its entirety on the APS website so parents no longer have to request. The VDOE [Family Life SOLs](https://doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/family_life/fle-sol-2020.docx) were set in 2020. Parents can opt out but it is very rare. There is a new [VDOE standard](https://sungazette.news/aps-to-give-parents-more-advance-notice-of-sexually-explicit-material/) and APS policy for explicit material.
  + Driver’s Ed is “booming.” Only offered currently at Wakefield. If the program gets more popular there may be a fee but for now it is free. Students can currently opt into an online health class and do driver’s ed during school instead. Staffing is an issue as teachers need two classes to be credentialed to teach the class.
  + PE and Health are fully staffed
  + According to APS staff in the meeting, there are lots of APS support staff absences this year (for example bus drivers)
  + Student Lunch Debt was discussed. Giant recently raised 26K to ‘pay off’ student debt at APS. CEP schools were prioritized first. Current limit on student debt is 1K and students are no longer notified if carrying a balance but parents are alerted. People can [donate](https://www.apsva.us/food-and-nutrition-services/refund-request/) to pay off student debt at the Food Services website.
  + APS did a [special Thanksgiving lunch](https://twitter.com/APSlunchrocks/status/1593326967235006464?s=20&t=6YdWvuD4z8R1zPx2F3DwyA) the week before Thanksgiving so the students could try brussel sprouts, turkey, etc. Food Services also partnered with Mrs. Jennifer Burgin to do [food reviews with students.](https://www.apsva.us/food-and-nutrition-services/food-reviews/)
  + APS has started a snack program with CEP schools where they provide a free snack – [Child and Adult Care Food Program](https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp) CACFP – the National School lunch Program. If teachers are providing academic time after school hours, let Nutrition Services know as they may be able to provide a snack.
  + Dr. Sampson then presented:
    - Reminded everyone that the 17th is “School Health Aide Day”.
    - You can watch the SEL Presentation given to ACTL
      * APS just completed an audit of their SEL data. Met with students, families and teachers. Will be available in February 2023.
    - Food Equity Report is being worked on– It is a partnership with the County. Looking at food pantries, backpack programs etc. to see where additional help may be needed.
  + The topic of recent news of APS overdoses was then discussed. Staff disputes the ArlNow article and says they are “not seeing more opioid overdoses than a normal year” and numbers are similar to years prior.
    - A letter was read from a SHAB member who was not present about drug usage in stairwells and students vaping under hoodies plus a wait list for “Second Chance” program. APS staff says there is not a wait list for Second Chance and that stairwells are checked frequently. They dispute how prevalent drug usage at school is and say counseling is recommended for any users. They also said that APS does more work than other jurisdictions on drug usage and Narcan training. APS has six substance abuse counselors.
    - Jenny Sexton then went over the Second Chance program (a way for students to have their records expunged of the drug violation and is an alternative to suspension that includes health lessons on substances) and the plan to eventually train everyone on Narcan.
* Next SHAB working groups were discussed.
  + SHAB used to have working groups on things like Nutrition/Allergies and Devices but a lot the former members are no longer on SHAB due to the time limit.
  + HVAC subcommittee got APS to agree to a 25 year plan
  + Screen Use is still a big issue. The committee wants a HS policy for device “away for the day” like the middle schools have. Gave a draft PIP to the school board in Spring of 2022 but did not know the status.
    - Advocacy avenues were discussed like speaking at school board meetings.

Meeting was closed at 2:34