SHAB Meeting – March 22nd

Mary Sanders

Deborah DeFranco, Supervisor, Health, Physical and Driver Education and Athletics

Dr. Darrell Sampson, Executive Director Student Services

Amy Maclosky, Food Services Director

Melissa Schwaber

Vell Rives

Desiree Jaworski - Chair

Karin Beecroft

Pablo Moulden

Alison Babb – Vice Chair

Dana Carr

Keirsten Kelly

Mary Sanders

1. Chair Jaworski shared about her meeting with Board Member Diaz-Torres. Diaz-Torres feels strongly that APS should not adopt an Away for the Day as a policy so there are not disparate consequences for students in enforcement of the policy. Jaworski will still present about Away for The Day to ACTL on April 12th.
   1. Main concerns by Board Members seems to be parents being able to contact their students during the day and consequences affecting class time.
   2. Pablo Moulden brought up safety concerns in case of a school shooting if this policy is adopted – feels the policy should be explicit in allowing phone use if feeling unsafe.
2. Alison Babb sent out a survey to MS Principals about Away for the Day. Responses below: “Swanson concurs with Kenmore’s responses (in bold).” From Williamsburg: “I agree with the comments shared by Mr. McBride as well.  In addition to those I would like to add that due to the increase of school violence over the past few years, some parents were opposed to students not having access to phones due to safety concerns.”
   * 1. Do you find it a successful policy?
        1. **Yes.  While our campus, like many others, faced new challenges this year with the rise of mental health and substance abuse concerns, we dealt with fewer problems with cell phones.  We still get cyber bullying and problems with online interactions, but these are not occurring during the school day, but rather at home on the weekend or in the evening. We have much fewer problems with stolen and lost cell phones.  In the past, admin time could get tied up with trying to help locate a lost or stolen device.  This has been reduced significantly. And the recaptured time has been better focused on instruction. Finally, we don’t get the noncompliance and defiance with turning over a device for the day or for the parent to come pick up.  In the past, prior to this policy, this situation—asking for the cell phone so the parent could pick it up—could escalate into a power struggle.  With our Away for the Day policy and daily reminders, students just turn in the phone.**
        2. Yes, having the expectations that cell phones were in lockers helped with student behaviors, and also less social media induced drama during lunches.
     2. Was there much push back from families when you implemented it?
        1. **No.  After last year, parents were all for more structure.**
        2. No, there were a few parents that were opposed to the idea, but I do not recall it rising the level of pushback.    There has been some feedback recently due to us being in a lockdown situation week before last.  There was some stress when students were dismissed from the building but without the chance to retrieve items from their lockers, but I think that was managed.  But, I have not heard anything specifically from parents now saying they want their child to carry their cellphone.
     3. And do teachers find it a hassle or helpful for classroom management?
        1. **I think it has helped support teachers and led to better management given that everyone knows you aren’t supposed to have a cell phone in class.**
        2. They find it helpful.
     4. How could we as a committee help the policy and its implementation (possibly in a specific PIP?) and in what way can School Health Advisory Board help you all with endorsing this policy at the administrative level?
        1. **Having the support of a PIP and also the endorsement of the School Health Advisory Board would be great.**
        2. I’m not sure.  If the language is in a PIP, the expectation is that schools will abide by it, so that would be the support behind the expectation.
   1. Need to ask if Principals are sending out policy reminders in multiple languages and recommend that if not.
   2. Student Code of Conduct is signed off every year and is translated into multiple languages.
3. FCPS Blog on Away for the Day: <https://www.fcps.edu/blog/transformational-play-pays-impact-middle-school-recess-felt-across-fairfax-county>
4. Arlnow article about our cell phone policy recommendation: <https://www.arlnow.com/2023/03/08/parent-committee-urges-aps-to-require-student-cell-phones-to-be-off-and-away-for-the-day/>
5. Elementary Device Use – We are looking for a chair for Device/Screen Use Committee. Please contact Desiree if you’d like to volunteer.
6. Remaining SHAB meetings this year will be in-person. A reminder that you may not miss more than half of the meetings and remain on the committee – so in our case that is three or more you *must* attend to stay on the committee. Many are in jeopardy of being removed per the rules.
7. Opioid use and drug overdoses:
   1. [Local PTAs and panelists emphasize role of parents in combating student opioid use](https://www.arlnow.com/2023/03/14/local-ptas-and-panelists-emphasize-role-of-parents-in-combating-student-opioid-use/) – Babb confirmed the recording for this presentation will be posted and will share once it is. She thought it was very informative.
   2. [Older Arlington teens could get drug therapy from opioid settlements. Advocates say kids need more interventions.](https://www.arlnow.com/2023/03/03/older-arlington-teens-could-get-drug-therapy-from-opioid-settlements-advocates-say-kids-need-more-interventions/)
   3. [Rising overdoses on school grounds prompt APS, School Board to act](https://www.arlnow.com/2023/02/16/rising-overdoses-on-school-grounds-prompt-aps-school-board-to-act/)
   4. [Police on scene of near-fatal teen overdose in Ballston](https://www.arlnow.com/2023/03/01/just-in-police-on-scene-of-near-fatal-teen-overdose-in-ballston/)
8. It was asked if FLE Curriculum covers fentanyl risks – DeFranco clarified it is a unit in Health not in FLE. Health education is K-10 so 11th and 12th are no longer covering this. Dr. Sampson says one of the six Substance Abuse Counselors are teaching lessons about substances to 4th and 5th graders.  We added 5th grade last year and are adding 4th this year. Durán’s budget proposal would add two more SACs next school year.
   1. Interventional Counselors currently budgeted to add one at each secondary school.
   2. Melissa Schwaber says APS should look at how many schools have tier two and three services with counselors assigned who should possibly be reassigned to a school with a higher need based on data on use.
      1. It was discussed that mental health is not confined to socio-economic status.
   3. Moulden asked, could we do a needs assessment to see what solutions are needed at what schools to what extent? A culturally responsive one? Or is that already being done?
   4. It was also noted that there is a large emphasis on Narcan but that is the moment of overdose so there should be a focus on prevention education, how to deal with stress in healthy ways and treatment. And that all education needs to be in Spanish as well.
9. Opioid data to compare year-over-year is here: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Health/Arlington-Addiction-Recovery-Initiative/Police-Investigated-Incidents-Involving-Opioids> Arlington also has a addition recovery initiative: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Health/Arlington-Addiction-Recovery-Initiative/AARI>
10. FLE Curriculum
    1. There is a significant amount of teachers who will need to be replaced due to teacher’s moving, long commutes, etc. DeFranco is feeling good about the rate of replacements being confirmed however. Most recent compensation changes helped retain some of the teachers who were considering leaving for neighboring districts.
    2. Curriculum was approved summer of 2021 but hasn’t been pushed out yet from the State and may not be adopted due to the current climate. APS had a lead on the team doing the revisions in Richmond.
    3. Sexually-explicit content in curriculum has to be flagged 30 days out per State Code.
11. For anyone who is interested, Moulden shared they got a mandated report from DoE passed through assembly that year right after the election. FLE report on all school districts (100% response rate) <https://www.vacser.org/vdoe-fle-report>
12. USDA is currently taking a look at their dietary guidelines and public comment is currently open. This is done every five years. VDOE then issues guidelines that APS follows. APS only offers skim and low-fat milk per regulation. Maclosky says APS won the breakfast award at Carlin Springs. VDOE and USDA came and honored staff.
13. **ACTION ITEM FOR THE COMMITTEE -** Wellness PIP is up for triannual assessment – SHAB is responsible for this and it is up next year for assessment. We need to take a look at monitoring and community engagement and the School Wellness Committee. Current PIP is overly complicated according to Maclosky. Recommends we streamline the committees at the schools. Please review the current PIP: <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/BJLJW34F18A1/$file/SBP%20I-10.30%20PIP-1%20Support%20for%20Students%20-%20Wellness.pdf> and the current triannual assessment: <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/APSWellnessPolicyTriennialAssessment.docx.pdf>
    1. School Board will vote on it.