



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Team ASI and TAAAC Secondary Teacher Advisory Council
Agenda**

Date: November 21, 2019

Time 3:45-4:45

Place: TAAAC Office

| Topic/Item | Time Allocated | Topic Leader | Objective |
|--|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Welcome | 3:45 - 3:50 PM | Russell Leone | Communication |
| 2. Redo Assignments | 3:50 - 4:00 PM | Michele Batten Dawn Lucarelli | Information and Discussion |
| 3. Performance Matters | 4:00 - 4:10 PM | Maureen McMahon Michele Batten Dawn Lucarelli | Information and Discussion |
| 4. Sub Coverage | 4:10 - 4:20 PM | Maureen McMahon Dawn Lucarelli | Information and Discussion |
| 5. School Safety/Climate and Backpacks | 4:20 - 4:30 PM | All | Information and Discussion |
| 6. Work for Extended Absences | 4:30 - 4:35 PM | Michele Batten Dawn Lucarelli | Information and Discussion |
| 7. Evening High School costs, enrollment | 4:35 - 4:40 PM | Mary Tillar | Information and Discussion |
| 8. For the Good of the Order | 4:40 - 4:45 PM | All | Communication |

Next meeting: Thursday, December 19, 2019

ASI and TAAAC Secondary Teachers' Advisory Council
November 21, 2019
3:45 to 4:45 p.m.
TAAAC Offices

Attendees: Maureen McMahon, Michele Batten, Dawn Lucarelli, Mary Tillar, Russell Leone, Kristina Korona, Patricia Moran, Robert Silkworth, Geoffrey Turk, and Mike Vigna.

Welcome and Sharing Updates

- Lindale Middle School's no cell phone policy is going very well, positive feedback was shared.

Redo Assignments:

- Issues were discussed regarding the implementation of the assignment redo policy.
- The policy is intended to be used strategically and provide an additional teaching tool for the student.
- Members discussed whether or not the policy guidelines are being followed. Are teachers communicating clear expectations and articulating those expectations in their class syllabus? Inconsistent implementation of the policy leads to confusion and miscommunication.
- There is no stated cap above which tests cannot be retaken. For example, a student receiving an 85% can redo the test in hopes of achieving a better grade. Parents need to be informed about the policy's intention.
- Teachers are faced with increased workload in terms of creating the new redo assignments. Subjects like math, which have several quizzes and tests each quarter, are particularly problematic. It was noted that the number of allowed assignment/tests redos (currently 3-5) may need to be decreased. Members discussed the potential for the redo opportunity to serve as a crutch.
- Examples were discussed about the facilitation of redo assignments. Some teachers set a redo date for each assignment. Students who qualify for the redo assignment must take the redo on the assignment's specific redo date.

Performance Matters:

- Technical issues resulting from the vendor's transition to a new cloud platform were discussed.
- The Office of Student Data is working with the vendor to resolve those issues. Members agreed that a ConnectEd communication to parents would have helped minimize frustrations.
- Teachers have expressed frustration with the process to record grades with recent Performance Matters challenges.
- Online assessments allow for better tracking of testing data. All students should have practice taking online assessments. Some assessments (Algebra 1 quarterly assessment for example) are only offered online. The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is working on a possible hard copy of the assessment for quarter 2. It was noted that teachers have the option to print online math assessments.
- AACPS has a 1:3 computer-to-student ratio for High School. There are approximately 60,000 Chromebooks countywide for 80,000 students. Some schools track technology use in order to assign accountability for broken technology.

Sub Coverage:

- There is a national teacher shortage, all counties in Maryland including Anne Arundel County are impacted.
- AACPS is working systematically to resolve the issue. A request for additional permanent substitutes is being considered. Strategies to address the shortage include retiree rehires, long-term substitutes (including job shares and temp/perm subs), the Fort Meade partnership hiring military spouses, and community placed hiring bulletins.
- Substitute pay and benefit enhancements were discussed. Temporary contractors may qualify for tuition reimbursement to be applied toward their teaching credentials.
- In order to lessen the demand for substitutes, professional development has been paused for December 2019. Evening PDs may be held, and PD tied to specific grant obligations will continue to be held. Field trips should not be cancelled. PD offerings will be re-evaluated in January.

School Safety/Climate and Backpacks:

- Members discussed the recent school shooting incident where a student used his backpack to conceal a gun.
- Members noted an increase in the number of students exhibiting anger issues and the need for additional anger management resources. It was noted that budget considerations include mental health resources, additional staff with the skill set to help with these situations.
- The Mental Health First Aide for Adolescents training program was discussed. Attendees of the summer training program shared highly positive feedback. The training involved a police mobile crisis unit. Members agreed that teachers would benefit from additional training and discussed offering this training again.

Work for Extended Absences:

- Students who miss class because of extended absences (health related versus vacation) cause an increase in teacher workload resulting from teachers having to create take home assignments. Students on suspension must be provided with home assignments.
- Nine grades per student are required for each marking period. Teachers can plan accordingly in terms of providing the required graded assignments. Oral assessments are permitted.
- Home teaching (instances where a doctor recommends that the student be home taught) was discussed. The dynamics of the matter can be complex and require parental buy in.

Evening High School Costs and Enrollment:

- AACPS provides a transition plan for students enrolling into evening high school. The plan includes a blend of day and evening classes before transitioning to evening only classes. A student must be withdrawn from day school to be fully enrolled in the evening high school program.
- Enrollment - there is no enrollment class limit; however, the registration period is as follows:
 - Sept. 9,10,11,12 - Registration continued through the last Thursday of September during regular evening high school hours at each campus. First days of school, September 17 and 18.
 - February 3, 4, 5, 6 - Registration continues through the last Thursday of February during regular evening high school hours at each campus. First days of school, February 11 and 12.
- Cost – fees are set by the Board of Education:
 - Concurrent - \$300/course with tuition reduction of \$100/course for families who have approved government assistance as outlined in the Evening High School brochure and on-line including FARMS.
 - Noncurrent - \$50 registration fee paid at registration each semester.

For the Good of the Order:

- AACPS 2020-2021 academic calendar (not yet finalized) will be voted on at the December 4, 2019 Board of Education meeting.
- The High School Program of Study, Licensed Real Estate Agent program at school at Arundel High School has launched.
- Early dismissal on Monday and Friday is causing an increase in teacher absence.
- It was clarified that students who are absent for religious holiday observation may make up missed classwork.

Next meeting: December 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted by Christina Hardy