Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction (SACI)

December 11, 2025

Minutes

6:02 Welcome Vanessa Olson, Chair, SACI

November Minutes approved as written

Presentation: Instructional Shifts: IDM/Inquiry, 5E, Data Cycle

Research on educational practices have led to instructional shifts in expectations for student learning. Presentations were provided by both elementary and Secondary supervisors of each of the core content areas in current practices in instruction in PWCS.

Instructional Shifts: IDM/Inquiry: Mr. Jeff Girvan, Supervisor of History and Social Science

- The Inquiry Design Model (IDM) is embedded into instruction
- Skills are infused into all learning experiences and students are reading, writing, listening, and speaking in every History and social sciences classroom
- The IDM model provides students with a compelling question to investigate through supporting questions, sources and formative tasks. Students write a response to the compelling (overarching) question to be scored on a rubric.
- Locally Awarded Verified Credit is a process that replaces the SOLs for graduation. Students start preparing for this process using the IDM in middle and high school. It is used to replace the SOL for World History and US/VA History.
- Example of an overarching question—How can geographic features impact the development of civilizations?

Instructional Shifts: 5E- Dr. Jerry Putt, Coordinator Science, Secondary; Ms. Sarah Plumitallo, Coordinator Science, Elementary

- There have been significant shift in science instruction and new standards. For example, in the 2010 Standards students were expected to name the next phase of the moon cycle, in the 2018 Standards students would be shown a model of the moon in relation to the Earth and the Sun and asked to identify what people on Earth would see.
- Moved away from rote memorization of science concepts and vocabulary in isolation to a focus on conceptual understanding of phenomena that supports the standard's central idea.

- Moved away from teaching the scientific and engineer practices in isolation to meaningful application of these practices integrated with conceptual understanding.
- PWCS uses the 5 E model for science instruction- Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate.
    - Engage- Get the students interested in the topic
    - Explore- allow students to build understanding through inquiry, problem solving, and research
    - Explain- explicitly teach concepts and vocabulary by connecting to experiences in the "explore" phase
    - Elaborate- apply the knowledge to a new situation
    - Evaluate- we evaluate throughout entire process

Instructional Shifts: Data Cycle: Dr. Justin Maffei, Supervisor of Math, Secondary; Mr. Chris, Latham, Supervisor of Math, Secondary.

- In each math course, students will focus on the Data Cycle. This includes formulating questions, collecting data, organizing and representing data, and analyzing data and communicating the results.
- Students from Kindergarten to Algebra 2 will apply the data cycle

Instructional Shift: Integrated Reading/ Writing, Ms. Carla Drew, Supervisor English Language Arts and Literacy, Secondary, Ms. Marisa Miranda, Supervisor English Language Arts and Literacy, Elementary.

- There have been significant shifts in ELA instruction and New Standards
- Moved away from teaching isolated reading comprehension strategies to targeted instruction in language comprehension with a focus on background knowledge, vocabulary, and morphology.
- Moved away from isolated writing tasks to integrated, explicit teaching of writing and grammar through reading
- Reading with a purpose is writing instruction
- Writing Instruction strengthens literacy skills

Key point is that through all subject areas students are expected to write, think critically, collaborate, support thinking with evidence.

Information was provided to the Council on how students can be supported at home.

Technology update: Matt Guilfoyle, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Stephanie Soliven, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, AJ Philips, Director of Information and Instructional Technology

- Over the next 5 years, Data will be king. We will need to provide upskilling and continuous reskilling to keep up with the workforce needs of the future. We need to help students determine Fact vs Fiction. We also need to be aware of Virtual and Augmented Reality.
- PWCS Five Year Technology Roadmap
    - Strategic data management
    - Instruction
    - Talent Management
    - Profile of a graduate and STEM skills
    - Digital Transformation
- Profile of a Graduate states that we will prepare our students to be digital citizens who use technology to better the world around them. They use technology ethically and safely to gather information. They will apply critical thinking to make informed choices and engage online responsibly and ethically.
- We are committed to organizational coherence throughout PWCS where we are using the same core learning, communication, productivity, and assessment systems divisionwide. We are providing a safe online learning and working environment for all students. We will also implement a digital equity investment plan.
- We are governed by Legal and Policy requirements to keep our students and their data safe. That includes ensuring that only those who have a direct educational interest in a student has access to their data. This means that only teacher who have a student can see that students' data.
- In PWCS we also use a Single Sign on system to manage a single set of credentials and it also applies the permissions or privileges for users based on their role.
- PWCS actively and constantly defends against cybersecurity attacks. Schools are often targeted because student data is "fresh" and has not been compromised to the same level as adults data.
- PWCS stopped more than 100 million threats in the last 12 months.
- This is why there are so many sites and programs that are not allowed on PWCS computers. It is all to help protect students and student data.
- Keep in mind that some systems used to block data are only as good as the extent that Google correctly codes information. It is possible that things do slip through

because it is not coded correctly. We do reach out to Google when this happens, and it is corrected.

- Bark is a system that actively monitors emails and documents on the network looking for threats or content that needs to be flagged. This includes references to weapons, bullying, or self-harm. Notices are sent to school administrators to investigate these flagged messages. With cell phones banned in schools, students have started using emails to communicate and this has led to an increase in Bark alerts. PWCS has provided a lite version of Bark for all families.
- We also work closely with both local and federal law officials to help protect PWCS.

- Parent resources can be found on our website. QR code link to those resources.

- AI in PWCS
    - As a society we are in Stage 1 (Narrow Artificial Intelligence) where machines imitate human behavior. Companies are working towards working towards machines will be as smart or smarter than humans.
    - In the Fall of 2023 a working group was created to develop recommendations for the development of guidelines and regulations regarding the use of AI in the classroom by teacers, students, administrators, and staff. This group consisted of 50 members from across all levels of PWCS including principals, teachers, cabinet staff, administrative staff. Various specialties were represented. Provided guidance around people, processes, and technology.
    - The goal of AI and data analytics is to enhance the ability of teachers to offer personalized learning for each student addressing their unique strengths and areas of growth. The use of these tools must be done in a manner that incorporates high quality digital instructional materials that is coupled with best practices in student instruction.
    - There are AI tools that are now available in PWCS including CoPilot for Staff, ChatGPT for staff, Canva, Newsela.

- The teacher cohort ChatGPT for Teachers launched in December.
- iOS26 on Ipads launched in December that integrates Apple intelligence across the systems
- A protected and Monitored Microsoft CoPilot for High School Students has a target launch for February 2. The Key Focus of CoPilot for High School Students includes establishing clear expectations, guardrails, and consequences for students, and promoting digital citizenship and ethical AI engagement.
- Guidelines for use will be provided with communication on the acceptable use of AI. Training will be provided to teachers that provides model lessons in core curriculum areas.
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Update to State Accreditation

This state recently changed is accountability system by separating school performance and accreditation. PWCS have been deemed "conditionally accredited" for the first time because we do not issue Certificates of Program Completion to students who have completed programs of study but have not met all the criteria for a diploma. PWCS has never issued a Certificate of Program Completion. PWCS will be appealing that decision to VDOE.

Due to time constraints, the work session will take place digitally. A link to provide feedback and to ask questions for the January meeting will be sent. The topics for the January meeting will be Updates to the Code of Behavior and MTSS (Multi Tiered Systems of Support) and Behavioral Specialists.

Meeting Adjourned 8:04pm