

Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction (SACI)

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024 7pm-9pm

APPROVED

Handouts- Meeting Agenda, November Minutes, Overview of Student Learning Presentation

Meeting Called to Order- 7:00pm Ms. Vanessa Olson, Chair SACI.

Thank you for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Approval of November Minutes with Revisions.

The meeting about the Best Practices Conference for Parents is still being scheduled. As soon as there is a date, we will follow up with those members who indicated an interest in being part of the planning for the conference.

We will also soon be looking for volunteers to serve on the bylaw review sub-committee. We will have more information at our next meeting.

In order for follow up questions to be addressed in a timely manner, we are asking that follow up questions be related to the topic that was discussed at our meeting. We will keep the form available through the weekend following the meeting. Any additional questions that may be submitted will be reviewed and brought forward to be part of the annual report discussion.

Presentation- Student Learning Presentation by Dr. Ashley Cramp, Director of Student Learning.

Part one of the presentation was an overview of the Student Learning Department and the programs that fall under student learning. There is a team of 56 people who are in the Student Learning Department, but most are out in school buildings every day. The presentation also included the roles of the Student Learning Department as well as Recent Student Learning Highlights.

The second part of the presentation included a summary of the instructional shifts to the state Standards and Instructional Resources. In the past, standards and resources revisions were on a 7 year cycle with 2 year prep for implementation. We are now seeing a much quicker cycle for revisions without the prep time. In the 2024-2025 school year there are new Math Standards, New English Language Arts Standards. In the 2025-26 school year there will be new Science and History and Social Studies Standards. This is also when new Math resources will be available.

New Science and History and Social Studies resources will be available in the 2026-27 school year.

Some instructional shifts include moving from rote memorization of information and facts to application of information and higher order thinking and critical thinking. There is also a shift away from teachers providing students all the information to inquiry design where students are provided with information and resources, and they draw conclusions and meaning from the resources. There is a shift towards teacher facilitated learning.

The third part of the presentation addressed the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) which is a new law aimed at improving reading skills for K-8 students. It requires schools to screen all K-3 students and mandates evidence-based reading instruction and intervention. It focuses on the Science of Reading which is a research-based approach to understanding how children learn to read and what teaching methods work best.

5 Key Areas:

1. Phonemic awareness
2. Phonics
3. Fluency
4. Vocabulary
5. Comprehension

The presentation also addressed VALLSS (Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System) which replaced the PALS (Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening). This is the screening tool used by schools to assess the early language and literacy skills of students and to help identify students who may be at risk of developing reading difficulties so they can receive early intervention.

The final section of the presentation was a discussion of required Federal State, and Local Assessments. For each assessment information was provided on the description of the assessment, the audience (who takes the assessment), the frequency, the average duration of the assessment, and the application of the data.

There were several questions submitted during the November work session on grading practices. There is work in progress that is reviewing the current policy and regulation to ensure

more consistency. There will be a survey coming mid-January for parents. The County wants to hear from as many parents as possible. Please spread the word.

Break

Work session on the topics for the January meeting

- 1) MTSS- Multi Tiered Systems of Support- Overview of academic and behavioral supports through MTSS.
- 2) Mental Health Supports- Telehealth program and other supports for students.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 pm