

Public Meeting #4 of the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Advisory Group

Meeting date: **Nov 14, 2022**

Attendees

Carlton Gerald (virtual), Gabriel Elias, Jim Paige, John Contreras (virtual), Kennetra Wood, Lt. Michael May, Matthew McLaughlin, Michael Diggins, Paula Gormley (virtual), Phylis Lawrence, Laurie Tasharshki, Farhan Mahmud, Elizabeth Stanley, Vanessa Duenas, Simma Reingold, Jossalyn Wilson (virtual), Namratha Bharadwaj (virtual)

Introduction

The objective of the meeting was to explore the safety-related experiences and perceptions voiced by our students, staff and community; translating needs into committee recommendations.

The external facilitators kicked-off the meeting with a review of the meeting objectives, the meeting agenda and a high-level overview of the next steps, milestones and deliverables.

The external facilitators informed the committee that additional analysis of the survey results will be provided on Nov 18, and they will further be segmented by race / ethnicity, focused on MS / HS students. Additionally, the current report will be extended with additional facts, figures and key findings. Focus groups report will be provided on Nov 18.

Subcommittees Review Survey Results

A [survey review protocol](#) was shared with each of the three ACPS SLEP subcommittees, and the teams were given 1 hour to review the survey results analysis as a team, with the survey protocol to guide the discussions.

Whole Group Discussion

A representative from each of the 3 subcommittees then shared key insights from their discussions, highlighting their responses to the following questions:

- Who is represented in the data we have? What is missing from our current data picture?
- How does this data provide insights or answers into our questions on students, staff and families perceptions of school and division safety?
- What are the implications to our committee's recommendations? What does this mean for our work?
- Are there common themes we want to elevate to the whole group?
- What other data/info would help us to confirm our conclusions?

Some of the emerging themes were as follows:

- Students report they feel safer at home (90%) versus at school (65%).
- There is a large population of students who have a neutral/no response regarding their interactions with an SRO - probably because they have never had to interact with one - which could be a good thing. It does however present the opportunity to focus on SROs role as a mentor, and to develop programs to have them in the classroom to talk about school safety. The responses show that overall there is a positive impression of the SROs - and this could be

further developed by the SROs putting together a simple brochure of what they do and how families can contact them.

- The Alexandria community consistently estimates a higher lack of school safety at ACPS compared to other groups. Furthermore, the community at large are aware of the SLEP efforts at a very-high level, but require more information to help alleviate concerns.
- Based on survey responses, ACPS needs to focus on student behavior, and mental health support - including restorative practices prioritizing building relationships and restoring harm that has been caused, in an equitable manner.

Recommendations Process

The SLEP Committee reviewed the recommendations process, to (i) understand the process, (ii) align on guiding principles and (iii) develop a plan for next steps leading to the recommendations report.

The guiding principles for the recommendations that were discussed and agreed upon are as follows:

1. Aligned to ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan Equity For All, supporting the ACPS learning community to outline these core values: Welcoming, Equity Focused, Empowering, Innovative, Results-Driven.
2. Supported by evidence / data from ACPS students, staff and community.
3. There is a paramountcy of child needs.

Next Steps

The next steps for the attendees are as follows: (i) review additional survey figures and focus group results, forthcoming from Hanover on Nov 18th, and to (ii) meet as a subcommittee at least once to identify key decisions/areas of recommendations for your subcommittee using the [recommendation proposal template](#) provided.

The external facilitator and research teams will (i) complete the survey and focus groups analysis reports and share with the SLEP team, (ii) follow up with ACPS leads subcommittee members on open-questions, (iii) provide options/additional session for focus group analysis review, (iv) continue to assist subcommittees to develop their recommendations reports, (v) organize meeting #5 to be held on 12/05/2022.