

## **Advisory Committee on Teaching and Learning (ACTL)**

### **Minutes**

**Syphax Building, rooms 254/256/258**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

**Present:** Katie Sunderland, Melissa Hyatt, Kelli Bergin, Jimisha Relerford, Jamie McHenry, Trisha Anderson, Ginnie Gordon, Heather Toronjo, Kate McKenney, Paige Tucker, Dimar Brown, Cloe Chin, Marietta Palmer, Michael Cieslak, Anne Paris, Janet Sater, Jenny Roahen Rizzo, Katie Cochran, Sarah Putnam, Kerri Hirsch

Attending via Zoom: Wendy Pizer

**7:00 pm, Welcome, approve minutes from January meeting** (Jenny Roahen Rizzo)

The January minutes were approved with no questions or objections.

**7:05, Introduction to discussion on long-term substitutes** (Paige Tucker, Dimar Brown, Katie Cochran)

Paige Tucker and Dimar Brown from Human Resources outlined the current use of substitute teachers and employment trends at APS.

**Teachers:** Overall, APS rate of teacher employment is very good. One challenge area is Special Education teachers, who have been about a third of this year's teacher resignations. APS also has a sub-to-teacher program to help substitutes become full teachers.

**Substitutes:** APS holds monthly substitute recruitment fairs with about 30 attendees at each. The school system is offering higher pay to substitutes this year vs last year and has increased the number of school-based substitutes to 2-4 per school. There is incentive pay on "hot days" (days substitutes are needed urgently), and APS has 6% more substitutes active per day over last year.

**7:24, Small group discussions**

Two groups, elementary and secondary, discussed the issues concerning long-term substitutes in their schools and generated questions to get community feedback.

**7:50, Reporting Student Progress and Grades** (Sarah Putnam, Kerri Hirsch)

In two groups, the Office of Academics provided an overview and update on grading practices. Kerri Hirsch presented to the elementary group with a focus on standards-based grading, and Sarah Putnam presented to the secondary group with a focus on changes in test retake policy.

**8:15, Discussion in groups**

Each group discussed practices for reporting student progress – what is going well, and suggestions for improvement.

**8:45, Meeting ends**