

May 5, 2015

Mr. Frank Jazzo  
Chair  
Information Technology Advisory Commission  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Suite 314  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Jazzo,

We want to extend our thanks to you and the Information Technology Advisory Commission for your December 2014 recommendations for strengthening technology collaboration between the Arlington Public Schools (APS) and Arlington County Government (ACG). We would especially like to recognize Dr. Joseph N. Pelton for his seven years of service to the Information Technology Advisory Commission, and his ongoing focus to develop collaborative opportunities.

We have reviewed the recommendations and our collective response to each recommendation is enclosed. Additionally, to help make collaboration a regular occurrence, we are scheduling quarterly meetings between APS and ACG technology leadership. This regular meeting of the leadership is in alignment with December 2011 recommendations for furthering collaboration, developed by the joint working group of ITAC and the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Technology.

Jack Belcher and Raj Adusumilli will keep you informed of the collaborative opportunities investigated and the outcomes of those discussions. We look forward to your future recommendations for efficiently improving the services provided to the residents of Arlington County.

Sincerely,



Ms. Barbara Donnellan  
County Manager  
Arlington County, Virginia  
2100 Clarendon Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201



Dr. Patrick Murphy  
Superintendent  
Arlington County Public Schools  
1426 N Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22207

CC: Jack Belcher, CIO, Arlington County Government  
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services, Arlington Public Schools  
Dr. Joe Pelton, Past Chair, Information Technology Advisory Commission  
Terri Schwartzbeck, Chair, Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Technology



**1. Digital High School/Middle School classrooms to reduce facility/space needs while enhancing Educational Offerings to Arlington Students Including courses for college credit.**

Blended and online courses, and courses which lead to college credits, are good options to include in APS's suite of instructional opportunities provided to students and their families. APS has in place online and college credit options, and is actively expanding both opportunities. The benefits go beyond those of space, both areas of focus will help APS to prepare students for college and careers.

**2. Strengthening citizen participation in joint Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County Working Group to increase bi-lateral communications regarding technology strategies for high dollar costing/saving initiatives/ and reduced licensing fees for software.**

The model of the Joint Commission has developed a number of successes. One challenge is the different focuses in the existing working groups. The Information Technology Advisory Commission (ITAC) has a policy advisory responsibility to the County Board. The Schools Advisory Commission on Technology (SACT) has an instructional focus providing advice to the Superintendent of Schools. While the differences in purpose offer opportunities for innovative thinking, it also presents challenges in finding areas of commonality. Perhaps one solution would be to have a member of ITAC join SACT, just as APS has representation at ITAC meetings.

**3. Removing redundancies in Voice, Video, Data Communications systems**

Removing redundancies should always be an assessment factor especially in times of tight budgets. This recommendation could be a guiding principle for future construction. In prior analysis of this issue, APS has concluded that its ability to E-Rate these items makes the current separation more cost effective for Arlington taxpayers. If there is a desire by County and Schools to reevaluate we could conduct the analysis again to see if new opportunities exist.

**4. Detailed analysis of Public Access, Educational and Governmental (PEG) needs, expenditures, and facilities to remove redundancies, duplicative effort or resources.**

Consistent with the response to recommendation three, removing redundancies should always be an assessment factor especially in times of tight budgets. ACG conducts a periodic review of these services, APS is an active participant in the process. The on-going Cable Franchise renegotiations may offer an opportunity for a reexamination and new recommendations for possible economies and efficiencies.

**5. Consideration of Joint Regional 911 Center to meet Next Generation Broadband Emergency Communications requirements to save costs and improve efficiency of operation.**

This has been and continues to be a consistent strategy of the County's Public Safety leadership to monitor any and all opportunities for regional collaboration. Initiatives to move to the Next Generation ECC continue. This summer Arlington will be participating in a regional pilot testing Text to 911. APS will be involved as opportunities are identified.