

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
June 21, 2005

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Pat Forgione, Robert Schneider, John Edwards, Darlene Westbrook, Rosalinda Hernandez, Joan Altobelli, Della May Moore, Marta Garcia, Cathy Kline, Janis Guerrero, Joey Crumley

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Carruth Administration Center.

Citizens Communications

There were no citizen communications.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 17, 2005 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

Reports on Other District Advisory Bodies

- Jane Ross and Adolphus Anderson reported that the recommendations of the Teacher Compensation Task Force had been provided to the Budget Task Force and Board for consideration. They said that covering the cost increase for employee health benefits was outside of the purview of the group.
- Ramon DeJesus reported that the Budget Task Force met three times and developed recommendations on budget priorities for Board consideration. He pointed out that the special legislative session on school finance could change things.

New Business

- The DAC recognized the service of Ramon DeJesus as DAC co-chair. Mr. DeJesus did not seek reappointment as co-chair, but will continue serving as a DAC member.
- Ballots were cast by DAC members for election of a new co-chair. Three persons were on the ballot: Buddy Owen, Adolphus Anderson, and Gerald Guerra.
- The DAC moved by consensus to appoint interested members to the Executive Committee, with one position still to be determined by the co-chairs.

Special Education

- Darlene Westbrook, Chief Academic Officer, and Joan Altobelli, Special Education Director, stated that AISD has been identified for several years as having too many

Special Education students in the most-restrictive environment, compared to the state average. Dr. Westbrook said this was a placement or inclusion issue, not an identification issue.

- Dr. Westbrook said we would need to work to get these students in the least-restrictive environment as much as possible, but still ensuring that their individual needs are addressed and necessary services are provided.
- Dr. Westbrook said that the District Improvement Plan and all Campus Improvement Plans would have a Special Education goal to address referrals and placements.

Final Exam Exemption Policy

- Rosalinda Hernandez, Associate Superintendent for High Schools, announced that she was proposing a change in district policy to no longer allow final exam exemptions for juniors and seniors based on attendance and grades. She said the current policy had been in place since 1995, and was originally established to increase attendance. However, she said there was no convincing evidence that the policy had resulted in increased attendance.
- Dr. Hernandez emphasized that the main reason for the proposed change in policy was to promote the high school redesign tenets of rigor and preparation for college. She felt that graduating students needed to be better prepared for the realities of studying for and taking college final exams. She said that of the 1,039 school districts in Texas, only 79 had final exam exemption policies.
- Concern was expressed that the current policy indeed provides incentives for students to attend class regularly and work to maintain good grades.
- A motion was made to recommend the proposed policy change to the Board, but a second on the motion was not obtained.
- Dr. Hernandez said that this issue would continue to be discussed in the context of high school redesign.

Bilingual Education

- Della May Moore, Bilingual Education Director, announced that she was retiring and introduced her replacement, Martha Garcia. Ms. Moore reported that students in secondary grades were showing comparatively lower success levels, but she said that the Read 180 Program is showing positive impacts. She added that those former Limited English Proficiency students who continue through graduation are consistently maintaining high achievement levels.
- Ms. Moore said that the International High School has been very successful. She said it will become an independent campus next school year.
- Ms. Moore said that the district has about 750 bilingual teachers at this time, but there are still a number of vacancies. She said we needed to better address their professional development needs.
- Ms. Garcia said that a comprehensive professional development plan had been developed for bilingual teachers, and that there would be follow-up activities, including classroom observations. She announced that there would be a summer bilingual academy for pre-kindergarten through second grade teachers.
- Discussion points included: involving parents more; learning native languages equally well along with English; providing more information to the Executive

Committee on the district contract with the Institute for Learning; and retaining qualified bilingual teachers, particularly at high-needs campuses.

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Forgione said that he intended to provide the Board and DAC with a summary of public input on the draft strategic plan. He said the final plan would be presented to the Board in early August.
- Dr. Forgione reported that two community forums had been held last week on high school redesign, and that both forums were well-attended, including many students.
- Dr. Forgione announced that the district had received a grant from the Gates Foundation to conduct more detailed planning for high school redesign efforts.
- Dr. Forgione said that the budget for the district was being forged in a very tight financial environment. He said he was recommending to the Board that the district cover cost increases in employee health benefits as well as cost increases related to the retirement system, in order to hold employees harmless. This did not leave any funding for employee pay raises, unless otherwise provided by the Legislature. He said the proposed budget still found additional funding to address the most pressing educational needs of the district.

Federal Funding Allocations

- Julie Lyons, State and Federal Accountability Director, provided proposed allocations of federal title funding related to No Child Left Behind. The DAC moved by consensus to approve the recommendations.

Other Business

- Cheryl Bradley was announced as replacement for Johnna Edwards as Board representative on the DAC.
- Buddy Owen was announced as the new DAC co-chair.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

| AISD District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Revised, 06/13/05) | 2005 | | | | | 2006 | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|
| | 6/21 | 8/16 | 9/20 | 10/18 | 11/15 | 1/17 | 2/21 | 3/21 | 4/18 | 5/16 | | |
| Karen Stevens, Parent, Kealing JH (1/1) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pam Gonzalez, Teacher, Highland Park ES (1/1) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lizel Santiago, Teacher, Kealing JH (1/2) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REAGAN VERTICAL TEAM | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shaintay Abudu, Parent, Graham ES (1/1) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomi Welch, Parent, Graham ES (1/1*) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sue Shoopman, Teacher, Barrington ES (1/2) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Constance Skeete, Teacher, Jordan ES (1/1) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TRAVIS VERTICAL TEAM | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ramon DeJesus, Parent, Travis HS (5/1) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adolphus Anderson, Parent, Rodriguez ES (2/1) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Frances Martinez, Teacher, Travis HS (1/1) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Douglas Rhodenbaugh, Teacher, Fulmore MS (2/1) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pat Butler, Mills ES (1/2) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cornel Jones, Norman ES (1/1) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Janie Ruiz, Becker ES (2/1) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jane Ross, Pearce MS (3/2) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Julia Fletcher, Bailey MS (1/2) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barbara Spelman, Austin HS (1/2) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACPTA REPRESENTATIVES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vacancy, South</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colin "CJ" Carl, North (1/2) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Suzanne Stein (3/2*) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Amy Averett (1/2*) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Linda Klar, Time Warner Cable (1/2*) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruffina "BB" Coffill, St. Elmo ES (1/2*) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DISTRICT-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Julie Lyons, Accountability (1/2) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AT-LARGE MEMBERS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alberto Gonzalez, Parent, Fulmore MS (2/2*) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pascual Piedfort (3/1*) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vicki Baldwin, Principal, Garza HS (2/2*) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (ex officio) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cheryl Bradley (1/1) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |

= Total number of terms appointed/Year of current term

* = Appointed by DAC Executive Committee

Name in Bold = Co-Chair