



**JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE  
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

Joint Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, April 21, 2023  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Austin Independent School District  
4000 S IH-35 Frontage Rd. Austin, Texas 78704

**Joint Subcommittee Members in Attendance:**

**Austin (AISD) Independent School District**

Arati Singh Board President, Austin ISD, At-Large Position 9  
Ofelia Zapata, Board of Trustees, Austin ISD, District 2  
Noelita Lugo, Board of Trustees, Austin ISD, At-Large Position 8  
Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Oversight

**City of Austin**

Alison Alter, Council Member, District 10  
Ryan Alter, Council Member, District 5  
Jose Velasquez, Council Member, District 3  
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager

**Travis County**

Brigid Shea, Commissioner, Pct. 2  
Jeff Travillion, Commissioner, Pct. 1  
Pilar Sanchez, County Executive

The meeting was called to order at 11:38 a.m. by AISD Board President, Arati Singh.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one signed up to provide public comment.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, February 17, 2023**

Commissioner Shea moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Zapata seconded.  
The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**III. JSC PURPOSE AND PLANNING**

The committee members discussed what they consider to be the best use of the Joint Subcommittee (JSC). Commissioner Shea stated there is great value in having the elected officials come together as they represent most of the same population and can pool resources and pursue policies that magnify the effect of the policies and initiatives.

Commissioners Shea and Travillion reported that the previous day, the Commissioner's Court approved spending much of their remaining Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (LFRF) allocations on several issues including those that may also be priorities for the other two member entities of the JSC.

Each member of the JSC identified the member's top issues that the JSC should consider. There was consensus on many, if not all, of the issues.

### **Workforce Development**

- Public Employee Training (Career Progression)
- Job Training, second placement for youth, second chance employment
- Career Technical Education (CTE)

### **Housing**

- Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing for public employees
- Permanent supportive housing
- If we don't have services for the unhoused and house them for only 30-90 days, we have not fixed the problem. We need to partner with Central Health, Integral Care, DWI Court, and others. Need to build infrastructure and provide job training.

### **Child Care/Pre-school**

- Childcare and infant care
- City ballot initiative to fund child care
- Pre-K

### **Mental Health**

- Child/youth mental health, suicide prevention (Travis County recently funded at \$270K)
- Child mental health
- Mental Health – access resources
- Mental health, jail diversion and connection to all community services (and impacts)
- Diverting those with mental illness from jail to treatment

## **Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction**

### **Staffing Challenges**

Incentives to bring teachers to the district

- Increasing support for public education
- PSS salaries - \$20/hour

### **Sustainability**

- Solar energy
- We need to be aware if we are investing in electric buses as Austin Energy needs to be prepared to support.

### **Drug Prevention/ Address Opioid Crisis**

#### **Emergency Preparedness/Resilience**

- Community preparedness for climate impacts (tied to Resilience Hubs)
- Need to amplify community discussions
- Climate change – we should spend more time on preparedness like we have done on resilience huts.

### **Park Space/ Land Strategy**

#### **After School**

- After school programs in Title I schools
- Summer camps and elementary and middle schools

#### **Community Schools**

### **Healthy Eating and Addressing Food Insecurity**

### **Multi-generational Supports – More Coordination**

The committee also discussed shared spaces among the three entities.

Council member Alter suggested it would be helpful to have subcommittees on various topics and involve staff with subject matter expertise. Commissioner Travillion agreed and recommended that the subcommittees have a document that includes (1) background, (2) objectives, etc.

A summary of what the JSC can do:

- INFORM
- HELP
- DO

- ASSET MAPPING

**IV. DISCUSSION: CHILD CARE NEEDS – CHILD AND WORKFORCE LENS**

Cathy McHorse, Vice-President of United Way Success by 6, provided a status report on early childhood education, including lack of affordability, lack of space and scarce childcare workers due to low salaries. She also described the long term outcomes that quality, affordable child care has on the economy and society.

**V. BRIEFING: TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY AND AISD SPECIAL UPDATE**

Superintendent Matias Segura provided a report on the status of AISD's special education program and the Commissioner of Education's announcement that he would appoint a conservator over the program. He reported that the Board has asked the Commissioner to reconsider and appoint a monitor instead of a conservator as the district has made much progress on many aspects of the program.

He also reported on the status of Mendez Middle School, its history of ratings, and the scenarios of possible TEA action if the campus receives a rating of C, D, or F in the next two years.

**VI. WRITTEN REPORTS – RESILIENCE HUBS**

The committee received a written report on resilience hubs and heard briefly from Laura Patiño, Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Austin.

**VII. STANDING ITEMS**

Members expressed that in the future, the JSC spend more time on resilience hubs, Mendez Middle School and special education.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m. by President Singh.