



DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report 2020-2021

Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Board Services

DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Introduction

Each public school district in the state is required in §11.251 of the Texas Education Code to maintain a district-wide advisory committee to assist in the planning and decision-making process, and to provide advice and recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees. AISD policies BQ-Legal, BQA-Legal, and BQA-Local pertain to the District Advisory Council (DAC). This report documents DAC activities for the 2019-2020 school year, and is prepared in accordance with DAC bylaws.

Meetings

The DAC held five regular meetings during the period of report:

August 25th, 2020
September 24th, 2020 - Special Meeting
December 15th, 2020
January 19th, 2021
March 23rd, 2021
April 20th, 2021
May 18th, 2021
June 15th 2021

In addition, on October 22nd, 2020, the DAC held its annual planning retreat via zoom due to the pandemic.

According to AISD policy BQB(Regulation), the DAC must hold at least one regular meeting per year at a campus with its Campus Advisory Council (CAC). The January 19th, 2021 DAC meeting was held at Travis High School School.

Note that due to a winter storm it resulted in one cancellation of DAC meetings on February 16th, 2021.

Website

According to AISD policy BDF(Local), all district advisory bodies must have webpages accessible through the AISD homepage. The DAC webpage includes the DAC bylaws, annual reports, meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, membership roster, and basic information on the DAC. The DAC website is at: <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/dac>.

Agenda Items

The following items were included on DAC regular meeting agendas for the period of the report:

- Introduction of the new Superintendent
- School Reopening Plan
- Reimagining Learning Update
- Proposed Waiver for Extension of Virtual-Only Learning, and Asynchronous Plan
- Review of DAC Bylaws, TEC and Purpose
- District Budget Report and Priorities
- Calendaring
- Special Education Update
- Annual District Performance Report
- COVID Update
- Safe and Supportive School Program
- Legislative Update
- Innovation and Development Update
- Virtual Waiver - STAAR / EOC Testing
- Student Code of Conduct Revisions
- Equity Update
- Strategic Plan

In addition to the above agenda items, standing items on the DAC agenda include Public Comments, the Superintendent's Update, reports from DAC members who serve on other district advisory bodies, and possible future agenda items.

Membership

In compliance with statutory requirements, the DAC membership includes parents, teachers, community members, and business representatives. In addition, the DAC membership includes students, principals, counselors, librarians, at-large members, and classified staff members. Not all of the positions on the DAC are tied to campuses, but a large number of different campuses are represented. The Superintendent and a Trustee designated by the Board serve as ex officio members of the DAC.

Prospective DAC members are identified through various sources, including applications submitted through the standard process for district advisory bodies, references from campuses, references from other DAC members, references from the Austin Council of PTAs, and participants in the AISD UpClose program.

Staff Support

The Planning Supervisor of the Office of Innovation and Development (OID) serves as the DAC Coordinator. The Executive Director of OID provides senior staff level support to the DAC. In addition, during the course of the school year, various senior staff members of the district present items to the DAC.

The DAC Coordinator maintains the DAC webpage, makes arrangements for DAC meetings, maintains the DAC membership, provides orientation to new members, maintains DAC records, and serves as principal point of contact for the DAC.

Conclusion

For the period of report, the DAC provided the district with countless hours of assistance in considering a number of issues. The DAC continues to provide an important contribution to accomplishing the mission and goals of the district.