

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Annual Retreat
October 25, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Dolores Banda, Campus and District Accountability
Mark Brewster, Construction Management Consultant
Cherylann Campbell, FABPAC
Christian Clarke Casarez, Finance
Nicole Conley, Chief Financial Officer
Julie Cowan, Board of Trustees
Joey Crumley, Campus and District Accountability
Frank Fuller, Facilities
Carolyn Hanschen, Campus and District Accountability
Jacob Reach, Superintendent's Office
Ann Teich, Board of Trustees

PROCEEDINGS

Preliminaries

- The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the AISD Performing Arts Center.
- Dr. Jane Ross introduced Trustees Cowan and Teich.
- DAC members took turns introducing and saying a little about themselves.

Districts of Innovation

- Jacob Reach, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, said that districts of innovation are an option enabled in the last legislative session in order to give school districts some of the same flexibilities as charters. He said that districts must achieve a Met Standard accountability rating to be eligible.
- Mr. Reach said that the Board held a public hearing last evening to receive input, and will decide on November 7 whether to proceed with seeking an innovation district designation. He explained that, if the district does move forward, a special advisory committee must be formed to draft an innovation plan, which must be approved by both the DAC and the Board. He further explained that, as long as proper procedures are followed, no approval by the state is required.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ There are several possible exemptions for innovation districts from normal state requirements, but innovation districts are still part of the accountability system and must still pay recapture
 - ☞ There don't seem to be many downsides to this
 - ☞ Even if we do become an innovation district, we can later change our mind
 - ☞ A tax-sharing arrangement with the city could lower our recapture costs
 - ☞ Changing the hours of school operation could have impacts on traffic and bus service
 - ☞ Of the innovation districts already formed, an earlier start date to the school year is one of the most common features
 - ☞ There are no exemptions related to required special education and bilingual services
 - ☞ Larger class sizes and loss of teacher planning time are concerns
 - ☞ The advisory committee could start meeting by December

- ☞ TASB says it's possible that innovation district provisions could change in the next legislative session, so there may be an advantage to getting our process done now

Community and Student Engagement Campus Reports

- Carolyn Hanschen, Director of District and Campus Accountability, stated that the requirement for these reports dates back to the 2013 legislative session. She explained that campuses must be rated on nine different factors, but it is up to each district to determine how the ratings are assigned. She said that a DAC subcommittee provided input into the design of the AISD rating procedures, which were chosen to be celebrative rather than punitive.
- Ms. Hanschen said that, starting in 2017-2018, the new A-F letter grade accountability rating system will include selected factors from the community and student engagement reports.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ There's a lot of variety in these reports among districts
 - ☞ This is something we can be proud of
 - ☞ Seems like it could be more rigorous
 - ☞ The intent of the sponsoring legislator was to give districts an opportunity to make their schools look good
 - ☞ The DAC subcommittee put in a lot of work and had a lot of discussion
 - ☞ The realtor tours have been great in getting the word out about our school offerings
 - ☞ Some people who have had negative experiences with campuses would take great exception to these very positive reports

Budget and Finance Update

- Nicole Conley, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update that included the following points:
 - ☞ More and more people are becoming aware of recapture and are concerned
 - ☞ The state has the primary responsibility for ensuring free public schools
 - ☞ The state funding formulas and adjustment factors are 30 years old
 - ☞ AISD and some other nearby districts pay almost 30% of total recapture, but comprise less than 10% of the state's population
 - ☞ Between 2016-2020, AISD will pay about \$2.6B in recapture
 - ☞ Our district's property wealth doesn't translate into widely wealthy households
 - ☞ We're facing inflation and significant infrastructure costs, combined with enrollment losses
 - ☞ We'll soon be at the point where we pay more into recapture than we take in in revenue
 - ☞ We're now implementing zero-based budgeting at the departmental level
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ The state won't allow us to raise taxes beyond a certain point
 - ☞ In anticipation of more local revenues going into recapture, the state is reducing its proposed contribution to school funding
 - ☞ We continuously meet with our legislators and community leaders to advocate and educate
 - ☞ ACPTA is committing to a large presence at the capitol
 - ☞ Some very small school districts are paying very large recapture amounts due to oil and gas revenues
 - ☞ Word is getting out around the state that this is not just Austin's problem anymore

Facility Master Plan Update

- Ms. Conley provided an update that included the following points:
 - ☞ The FMP looks at current long-range needs
 - ☞ The FMP also guides capital improvement planning
 - ☞ Individual school facility assessments are now online – the assessments include facility conditions and educational suitability
 - ☞ Community meetings have been and will continue to be held across the district to gain input

- ☞ The FABPAC is also meeting frequently, and members are getting out into the community
- ☞ Our focus is on facility modernization
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ School staff were involved as the assessments were conducted
 - ☞ We are reaching out to CACs and school communities to gain input
 - ☞ Probably need to think about more ways to engage youth – kids aren't going to take a survey
 - ☞ Perhaps get more kids to be on CACs and get more information out to kids at school
 - ☞ We are meeting with student journalists to help get the word out
 - ☞ Don't underestimate the value of input from teachers and students – they can tell you a lot about building conditions
 - ☞ Youth engagement would be a good future agenda item

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Cruz provided an update that included the following topics:
 - ☞ The DAC's own Allison Ashley was named Texas Teacher of the Year
 - ☞ AISD has partnered with UT Austin to offer a Micro-Majors program to provide even more opportunities for students to earn college-level course credits
 - ☞ We're moving away from college-level course work being appropriate for students only of a certain age – we have some 14 year-olds with college credits
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ Bowie, Akins, and Reagan will be participating in Micro-Majors
 - ☞ A lot of the Micro-Majors instruction will be online
 - ☞ If kids don't do well in a Micro-Major course, it won't hurt their high school GPA
 - ☞ It's great that we're expanding our academic partnerships
 - ☞ The Board wisely extended the Superintendent's contract
 - ☞ We're still considering November 2017 for a possible bond election – we're not looking for fancy things, rather to bolster our core academic offerings
 - ☞ Really prioritizing will help us in trying to pass another bond
 - ☞ Taking the recent Archer Challenge was very revealing
 - ☞ The FMP process is being conducted through the lenses of equity and access
 - ☞ Not all of our facility capacity problems can be addressed by boundary changes
 - ☞ Our efforts have paid off to bring in out-of-district students
 - ☞ Realtors are important in spreading information about how good our schools really are
- Dr. Cruz thanked the DAC for its continued advocacy and commitment.

Enrollment Update

- Joey Crumley provided an update that included the following points:
 - ☞ Campus and district enrollment data from the end of the first six weeks
 - ☞ A summary of district enrollment gains and losses over the last few years, showing that the district cut its enrollment loss to half of last year's
 - ☞ Longitudinal data showing a steady increase in charter school enrollments and the number of charter schools
 - ☞ Longitudinal census data also related to our enrollment declines, including a sharp increase in median home values and a significant decrease in the birth rate
 - ☞ A status report of 66 different district efforts related to enrollment and marketing
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ It would be helpful to get the campus enrollment data showing percentages as well as raw numbers
 - ☞ We should get an update on the marketing plan to see if efforts target to specific campuses paid off

Status of Previous DAC Recommendations

- Mr. Crumley said that several items identified at last year's retreat were subsequently included on the agendas for DAC regular meetings. He added that the five budget priorities identified at last year's retreat had all been acted on to some extent by the district.
- Mr. Crumley also stated that several of the recommendations of DAC subcommittees on enrollment and customer service had been acted on by the district, although some of the recommendations had not been acted on.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ The leaver surveys that were conducted didn't really follow the subcommittee recommendations
 - ☞ This information is good, but we really need to see more details on what has been done, and explanations as to why other things have not been done
 - ☞ We can tell that the administration has looked at these recommendations, what more can we expect – they've moved on to other issues by now

Conclusion

- It was decided to postpone breakout group discussions to the November DAC regular meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned by Andy Anderson at 2:45 p.m.

District Advisory Council Membership and Attendance Record	2016				2017					
	8/16	9/20	10/25	11/15	1/17	2/21	3/21	4/18	5/16	
AKINS VERTICAL TEAM										
Heather Shaw, Parent, Perez ES (2/2)		✓	✓							
Monica Sanchez, Parent, Casey ES (3/1)										
Mario Piña, Teacher, Perez ES (1/1)	✓		✓							
Shalane Sheppard, Teacher, Akins HS (2/2)										
ANDERSON VERTICAL TEAM										
Cathy Painter, Parent, Anderson HS (1/2)		✓	✓							
Shannon Meroney, Parent, Doss ES (2/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Christy Cochran, Librarian, Murchison MS (3/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Thomas Jolliffe, Teacher, Anderson HS (1/2)		✓								
AUSTIN VERTICAL TEAM										
Barbara Knaggs, Parent, O.Henry MS (2/1)	✓		✓							
Vera Muñiz, Parent, Zilker ES (2/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Sedric Pinkny, Teacher, O.Henry MS (1/1)		✓								
Aimee Finney, Teacher, Austin HS (1/2)	✓		✓							
BOWIE VERTICAL TEAM										
Mike Berryman, Parent, Bowie HS (1/2)		✓								
Shawn Ball, Parent, Gorzycki MS (1/1)	✓									
Arthur Thompson, Teacher, Bailey MS (2/2)	✓									
Brian Alford, Teacher, Bowie HS (2/1)			✓							
CROCKETT VERTICAL TEAM										
Zoe Trieff, Parent, Sunset Valley ES (2/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Nicole Reed, Parent, Cunningham ES (2/1)		✓								
Rocio Ruiz, Teacher, St. Elmo ES (2/1)	✓	✓								
Kristel Nichols, Teacher, St. Elmo ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
EASTSIDE MEMORIAL VERTICAL TEAM										
Hilda Villalobos-Alvarez, Parent, Eastside Memorial HS (1/2)										
<i>Vacancy, Parent</i>										
Giles Smith, Teacher, Metz ES (1/2)		✓								
Mary Stewart Miller, Librarian, Ortega ES (1/1)	✓									
LANIER VERTICAL TEAM										
DeeDee Evans, Parent, Lanier HS (3/1)	✓									
Natalie Bowers-Benderly, Parent, Wooten ES (2/2)										
Danny Ramos, Librarian, Padron ES (1/1)	✓									
Paul Mitchell, Teacher, Lanier HS (4/2)	✓									

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★ = Co-Chair

= Executive Committee Member

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LBJ VERTICAL TEAM										
Betty Johnson, Parent, LBJ HS (5/2)		✓	✓							
Tihira House, Parent, Garcia YMLA (1/1)										
Daniela Ruiz, Teacher, Harris ES (1/1)		✓	✓							
Blanca Galvez-Perez, Teacher, Andrews ES (3/1)		✓	✓							
McCALLUM VERTICAL TEAM										
Candace Aylor, Parent, McCallum HS (1/2)		✓	✓							
Dr. Melanie Haupt, Parent, Brentwood ES (1/1)	✓	✓								
Rachel Eastman, Teacher, Brentwood ES (1/2)		✓	✓							
<i>Vacancy, Teacher</i>										
REAGAN VERTICAL TEAM										
Ivan Mendez, Parent, Reagan HS (1/2)										
Dr. Deanna Mercer, Parent, Reagan HS (1/1)	✓	✓								
Maya McElroy, Librarian, Graham ES (3/2)		✓	✓							
Claudia Torres, Teacher, Webb MS (1/1)		✓	✓							
TRAVIS VERTICAL TEAM										
Genevieve Dell, Parent, Fulmore MS (1/2)			✓							
James Wetter, Parent, Fulmore MS ES (4/1)										
Becky Cardenas-Salinas, Counselor, Linder ES (1/2)			✓							
Allison Ashley, Teacher, Becker ES (2/1)	✓									
SPECIAL CAMPUSES VERTICAL TEAM										
Jane MacLean, Parent, Ann Richards School (3/1)	✓		✓							
Sondra Marks, Parent, LASA (2/2)		✓	✓							
Paul Lanning, Teacher, ALC (1/1)			✓							
Jill DiCuffa, Teacher, Ann Richards School (2/2)		✓								
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS										
Rafael Soriano, Principal, Padron ES (1/2)		✓								
Lupe Vasquez, Principal, Allison ES (1/1)										
Angela Leu, Assistant Principal, Patton ES/Baldwin ES (2/1)										
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS										
<i>Vacancy, Middle School Principal</i>										
Shannon Sellstrom, Principal, Covington MS (5/2)		✓	✓							
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL										
Sammi Harrison, Principal, Anderson HS (2/2)										

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ACPTA REPRESENTATIVES										
Vanessa Santamaria-Dainton (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Nu Chanpheng (2/1)	✓		✓							
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES										
Michael Supancic (5/1)			✓							
LaDonna Massad (5/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Kevin Wood (2/2)	✓	✓								
Toni Rayner (3/2)			✓							
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE										
Drew Bixby (3/1)	✓	✓	✓							
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE										
Rodrigo Velez, Human Resources (2/1)										
DISTRICT-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES										
★Dr. Jane Ross, Learning Support Services (9/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Bonnie Hauser, Library/Media Services (3/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Angela Iglehart-Woods, School, Family & Community (1/2)		✓								
Nichole Aguirre, Technology (1/2)			✓							
Alonzo Blankenship, SEL (1/2)	✓	✓	✓							
AT-LARGE MEMBERS										
Alberto Gonzalez (8/1)										
★ Adolphus (Andy) Anderson (7/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Vickie Black (9/1)										
Kevin Manzke (5/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Cindy Anderson (2/2)										
Kathy Green (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES										
Ilisha D'Souza, Student, Anderson HS (1/2)		✓								
Jimmy Counihan, Student, Bowie HS (2/1)		✓	✓							
BOARD OF TRUSTEES LIAISON										
*Amber Elenz, Trustee	✓	✓								
SUPERINTENDENT										
*Dr. Paul Cruz, Superintendent		✓	✓							

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