

Campus Advisory Council (CAC) Minutes

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Date/Time: September 19, 2018 at 4:45-5:45 pm in Gold Room

Attendance, members: Clare Wolf, Maria Ortega, Ryan Hopkins, Kevin Gabele, David Linscomb, Laura May, Kirsten Christopherson, Medina Willis, Kathy Rogers, Rebecca Herman.

Absent: Ms. Boonto

Citizens' Communications attendance:

Secretary: Rebecca Herman

Convene: 4:56 pm

Welcome, Call to order: Ms. Ortega, CAC co-chair

Norms for meeting (see agenda policies): Ms. Wolf, CAC co-Chair

- Review of citizens' communications procedures and interaction with CAC members

Student Hector Machuca will be a new student CAC member.

Citizens Communication

Brandon Hoballah: supporting comments for school name change to Diana Herrera Castaneda.

Lorelii Castaneda Kufirin: supporting comments in favor of school name to Diana H. Castaneda.

Rosanna Cervantes: in favor of name change to Ms. Castaneda.

Hector Machuca: in favor of name change to "Lanier" without a first name, with supporting reasons.

Laura DeGrush: task force criteria, Community Engagement with Austin ISD; advising CAC committee to use task force criteria to select three schools names that match the set criteria.

- Written comments submitted to CAC, read aloud by Ms. Wolf:

Celia Ramirez: against keeping the name "Lanier" as against the spirit

Eric Jefferson: comments in support of naming school after Diana Castaneda.

Arianna Colasanti: supporting the school name "Lanier" without first name, with supporting reasons.

---wait for late comment card for Citizens Communication

Eduardo Vaca Anaya: supporting comments to naming school to "Lanier" alone.

Approval of minutes from last two CAC meetings (Sept. 10, 2018 and Sept. 17, 2018):

Move to approve: Ms. May; Seconded: Mr. Linscomb.

Discussion: Mr. Gabele (who took the minutes on 9-10-18) filled in some blanks. "Mr Hopkins read email from "Laura DeGrush". Later, 5:17 "Mr. Castaneda" spoke in favor. Also, under attendance, "Ms. Cervantes sister is Diana Castaneda (Citizen Communication). Add to attendance "Gavino Fernandez, LULAC" who spoke during Citizen's Communication.

Vote on approval of corrected minutes: all approve.

Review the task force Criteria and discussion: Ms. Wolf; see handout "What qualities describe people who meet proposed criteria?"

Ms. Wolf has receive hundreds of communications from the community, students, and staff about the topic of school name change. CAC committee will submit three name changes

following chart criteria, which includes six main person-related criteria and one column of criteria to name the school based on the “place.” Our submissions are not necessarily going to be chosen by the district school board.

[read aloud Citizen’s comment card, listed above]

Ms. Willis, CAC member, discusses school name change: Review an earlier list of top eight names submitted.

Ms. Christopherson said that online survey responses has increased to over 500 individual comments.

Ms. May said that the survey should have been offered sooner. Keep discussion efficient and brief.

Mr. Hopkins, principal, supports Ms. Willis’ call for discussion on name choices. We previously voted on the survey criteria and we should accept that.

Ms. Christopherson said that the online survey didn’t add new name choices but respondents added more reasons to support the short list of name proposals.

Ms. Willis said that we stopped last time at 7:00 so we can spend more time on discussion before voting.

Ms. Willis moves to review all 8 names; Ms. Rogers seconds;

Discussion: LaNier, McCall, Huerta - don’t include these names.

If we spend 5 minutes on each name, we will be here until 6:30 pm.

Ms. Christopherson told us the numbers associated with some names proposed.

Rebecca Herman suggested we should limit discussion to our short list at the end of our previous CAC meeting.

Vote: in favor of discussing all 8 = one; nays = 6; abstain = 2.

Motion to discuss five names, including “North Central” Ms. Wolf, and seconded Ms. Christopherson:

Vote = 8 ayes, one abstain.

The five names to be discussed according to the written criteria:

Diana H. Castaneda: She is historically connected to the city, not this school. She was a teaching assistant at Metz and Cassis ES and served on PTA at several campuses. She represented the Latino community in her area.

Esperanza: One person said that it sounds like a female, common name, perhaps less than a name of importance. This name is a concept, not a quality of a place or person. Some of the “place” criteria might apply. Ms. DeGrush clarified the criteria for the members. There are four votes from the online survey; reasons: simple and non-controversial. This Hispanic word does not specifically pertain to our campus, which does not sound inclusive of our varied population. We represent 54 countries in our school, so Esperanza excludes other populations. On the other hand, the Spanish-speaking population is the second most popular language in the country, and this trend may increase at our campus. Any new name will be unfamiliar until students and staff develop a connection to the school itself over time and with shared experiences.

Motion to remove this name “Esperanza” by Ms. Christopherson, Mr. Lonsomb seconds.

Discussion: Mr. Hopkins would prefer to finish discussion of all five names before voting.

Motion to not exclude any names yet by Ms. Wolf, Mr. Gabele seconds; all approve.

Lainer: Some debate as to whether this proposed name if a name or a concept and may defeat the purpose of a name change. Ms. Ortega, co-chair and parent of students who attend our campus, has a strong emotional connection with the name Lanier. In the survey, 20 respondents were opposed to this name, while hundreds of other votes in favor. We have many programs at our school that have a national representation called for Lanier; we are tasked with representing our students and communities, and they prefer this name. Phone calls to Ms. Wolf from alumni: a few are against (26, including 15 in support; some opposed). Will the district school board reject this name as too similar to our current name? No clear answer. This name would reflect a symbolic faithfulness to our name, while respecting the spirit of change by submitting two additional names. If only 500 responded to survey, then only a third responded and no real community voice for input; even among staff, there is varied information provided. Ms. Rogers said that both sides of the story while initiating the school name change was thoroughly presented to the school board in detail. In our school cafeteria, we collected ideas from students, and most wanted to keep the name Lanier based on research; and national programs used the name Lanier, which deserve to keep the name. There are 450 (student) online survey votes, over 300 support name Lanier; over half of staff support the name Lanier. We should submit the name to the district board. There was a lot of misinformation shared with students regarding confederacy and the district being racist. We cannot resist the idea of a name change, since that is already set.

Motion to move discussion to next name: Ms. Ortega, Ms. Wolf seconds; 8 approve (all in room; Ms. Christopherson left room).

Juan P. Navarro: Some relatives are still as attending Lanier ECHS, which might be perceived as favoritism. Will details of Navarro's past become a problem? He did not seem to reflect the values in criteria. He was a student at Lanier HS, and later gave his life for his country, but he wasn't committed to education, being too young.

North Central: Refer to the "place" criteria. Some students may think the name is associated with gang activity not far from here. The other schools that have a place name are minority schools that have a negative reputation. It doesn't seem to meet the criteria. Eastside HS students are very proud of that name. Only 5 voted online survey to support this name; Northside name was also proposed as a non-controversial name.

Motion by Ms. Christopherson to include all five of these names in our vote for the top three names to send to the district board; she had to leave the meeting before seconded.

Motion to remove North Central name from guaranteed list; Ms. Rogers seconded;

Discussion: Ms. Wolf summarized the main ideas about each of the five names.

Vote: 6 in favor, one abstain, one opposed.

Move to end discussion: Ms. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Gabele; approved by all.

Write private vote on yellow cards; Ms. Wolf collected and tallied; Ms. Ortega verifies the vote.

First vote on school name change:

1st place name = North Central, 3; Castaneda, 3; Lanier, 2 votes

2nd place name = Lanier, 3; Castaneda, 2; North Central, 2; Esperanza, 1 vote

3rd place name = North Central, 3; Esperanza, 1 (others abstain)

Weighted:
North Central, 16
Castaneda, 13
Lanier, 12
Esperanza, 3

Discussion: Mr. Hopkins said that the top three names are clear. All types of criteria are represented in this list. Ms. Willis is concerned that we did not discuss many of the names from the original list, which limits our response and a fair vote. Ms. Wolf said that our discussion is worthwhile. Ms. May said that the results seem representative among the five choices.

Motion to adopt these top three choices by Ms. Wolf; Ms. Ortega seconds; no discussion;
Vote: 7 in favor, one opposed; no abstain.

Next steps: Mr. Hopkins said that we need to submit a document to the district. Ms. Wolf will draft the document. All CAC members should submit their reasons to Ms. Wolf. Please email to Ms. Wolf and Mr. Hopkins, including comments for the abstract.

Mr. Hopkins said that we kept this process open and as inclusive as practical that led to this vote.

Motion to adjourn, Ms. Ortega, Mr. Linscomb seconds; all approved.

Adjourn at 7:24 pm.