

AISD School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC)
Summary of Open Meeting Notes
5.12.26

Members Attendance

Alyssa Barrera, Zach Reagan, Nia Nickens, Lynn Boswell, Brandy Gratten, LaShanda Lewis, Wayne Sneed, John Harris, Alana Bajarano, Fuerza Linda Kitcher

Others in Attendance

Nijalon Dunn, Heather Meritt, Kerry Young, Taya Polk, Nelson Brites, Sean Oliver, Erika Shadburne, Oscar Rodriguez

PROCEEDINGS

Preliminaries

- Trustee Lynn Boswell opened the meeting at 5:37 pm.

Public

- Zach Reagan commented that the co-chairs will begin reviewing membership renewals this upcoming August. He noted that the application link is currently available on the website for those interested in applying. The committee will review these applications during June and July, ahead of a call-out for members in August.

Deliberations

- Sunrise Navigation Center Relocation
 - Heather Merritt and Erika Shadburne (Assistant Principal, Travis HS) initiated the discussion regarding the relocation of the Sunrise Navigation Center near Travis High School.
 - Shadburne shared insights as a former teacher who walks the area, expressing concern over AISD students navigating unhoused encampments at bus stops and sidewalks. She noted that the center's proximity is causing safety issues near the local elementary school and during student field trips to Blunn Creek, where a student was previously threatened by an unhoused person.
 - The South Austin Neighborhood Safety Alliance (SANSA) is working to bring the community together to address these resource strains, anxiety, and property damage while still maintaining a humane response.
 - Visitors and members discussed public transit impacts, noting that safety fears on CapMetro buses have increased student truancy and have forced many parents to drive their children to school.
- CapMetro and law enforcement collaboration
 - CapMetro connected with students to hear their experiences. While students rejected a dedicated hotline and app, student ambassadors and APD suggested that texting 911 was a more efficient way for students to report issues and secure their safety. CapMetro's internal police department (led by Chief Bowie) will continue to monitor hotspots as similar issues have occurred near Webb Middle School.
 - Campus safety at Travis Heights is currently supported heavily by hall monitors and encampment issues require 311 reporting to APD.

- Chief Sneed reported that APD collaborates directly with the City of Austin Encampment Committee (including Chief Pickford and Cameron Allen of Homeless Strategy Operations) to manage and relocate encampments.
- A recommendation was made to hold a joint meeting with sector district representatives to align on Austin ISD PD strategies. In response, Trustee Boswell mentioned that the Board approves budget considerations for hazardous bus routes and highlighted a quarterly joint subcommittee (City, County, and District) as the ideal platform to collaborate on student transit safety and unhoused community support.
- The open session closed at 6:25 PM.

Conclusion

- The open session opened back up at 7:14pm
- Future agenda items:
 - Revamping emergency response which is costly; do we need additional functioning equipment defibrillators
 - 13 different models of defibrillators on the Bowie campus
 - Cannot afford the batteries and have to replace them on a cycle.
 - Update from the Travis High School after the move of the Homeless Navigation Center
 - Paint points of the AISD budget (1st meeting of the year)
 - Legislative priorities for 2027 session

Chief Sneed motioned to adjourn. Open session closed on 7:23pm