

<b>Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools</b> <b>Summary of Meeting</b> <b>May 22, 2007</b>
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Member Attendance:

Andy Anderson	Present
Sally Brackett	Present
Terry Clark	Present
Christiane Woodley Erwin	<i>Absent</i>
Chiquita Watt Eugene	<i>Absent</i>
Lourdes (Lulu) Flores	Present
Linda Gibeaut	Present
Rev. Sterling Lands	Present
José Marrero	Present
Rachael Proctor May	Present
Susan Moffat	Present
Leroy Nellis	Present
Yolanda Pedraza	Present
Rev. Ivie Rich	Present
Paul Saldaña	Present
Alfredo Santos	Present
Kathie Tovo	Present
Jim Walker	Present

Others in Attendance:

Mark Williams, President, AISD Board of Trustees  
 Greg Guernsey, City of Austin, Neighborhood Planning & Zoning  
 Dr. Janis Guerrero, AISD Planning & Community Relations  
 Joey Crumley, AISD Planning & Community Relations  
 Heather Dalrymple, AISD Planning & Community Relations

Proceedings:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. in Conference Room A-230 of the AISD Carruth Administration Center.
- There were no citizen communications.
- After a welcome by Andy Anderson and introductions by committee members, Paul Saldaña went over the meeting guidelines.
- Andy Anderson reviewed the committee’s charter and the framework for development of policy and process.
- Discussion points included:
  - ☞ Clarifying that the committee will report to the Board, but that the Superintendent will have an opportunity to review the committee’s recommendations and comment to the Board

- ☞ The importance of committee members, who all have a proven track record for outreach, actively soliciting input from a broad base of community stakeholders. This chance to make recommendations directly to the Board provides tremendous opportunity to open an unprecedented dialogue and create changes.
  - ☞ The district and the city need to coordinate school location decisions.
  - ☞ The committee will have a challenging job as the focus is on all of the district's schools instead of addressing any one particular area or individual school.
- The committee reviewed its work schedule, running through February of 2008. According to the schedule, committee members and the community learn about AISD's current status. Then members seek input from community members about the needs of their communities. Finally, a report is presented to the board about those needs.
- Discussion points on the work schedule included:
  - ☞ The August meetings will be about the accountability system and determining ways that committee members can engage the community to get feedback. August and September are reserved for obtaining community input. In December, the community will receive information at open houses and have the opportunity to provide feedback on draft recommendations before a final report is presented to the Board.
  - ☞ The possibility of forming subcommittees if needed was mentioned. Although subcommittees have not been discussed yet, they are not precluded from the process.
  - ☞ Recording the committee's process so that information is not lost is important. The public can follow the task force's progress through a website that lists the members, meeting times and agendas, and meeting summaries.
  - ☞ Committee meetings are scheduled at the same time as the City of Austin's Planning Commission meetings. This could result in some people having less opportunity to attend committee meetings.
  - ☞ The committee needs to find ways to hear from people who do not ordinarily get involved, as all community voices need to be heard; need to reach out to the different subcultures and in their languages. People need to feel that their input will actually have an impact on the report presented to the Board.
  - ☞ Try to provide information and background on recent school decisions.
- Mark Williams thanked committee members for their participation. He emphasized the need for the committee to engage the entire community and to be patient if the pace of progress seems too slow as it will all come together over time. The committee will use its expertise to establish a framework to allow things to move forward. This will not be an easy process as there are so many variables when viewing the district as a whole so the ability to compromise will be key to success. The Board is there to support the committee in its efforts. Because of the timeline of state accountability requirements, the Board may not be able to wait for the committee's final report before addressing an issue.
- Discussion points included:
  - ☞ Learning why schools are overcrowded or underutilized may allow attention to be focused on an individual school at an earlier point in time if warning signs are seen.
  - ☞ Need to see where all schools are currently located in the accountability process. Need to get neighborhood engagement at year one instead of waiting until year three to focus on the issues.
  - ☞ Because of its overall growth, AISD is in a unique position as many other districts are being forced to close many schools due to shrinking enrollment district wide.

- ☞ AISD also faces different challenges than many other areas because of the state's stringent accountability system.
- ☞ Getting information on population trends and current school enrollment patterns could provide a snapshot of different neighborhoods and give a sense of future requirements. The committee hopes to get some type of benchmark to suggest where the incoming population might live.
- ☞ Demographic information and the annotated bibliography on measures other districts are taking to address these issues should be added to the committee's website.
- ☞ Because the proposed Young Men's Leadership Academy may require repurposing a school, the committee should be in communication with that group.
- ☞ A request was made for the definition of overcrowding and underutilization and for information on assessed valuation and future land use maps.
- ☞ Information on school vertical structure was requested so the committee can get a sense of where enrollment trends are going.
- ☞ Need to look at how many students are being educated in portables.
- Members discussed the need for more information about methods of encouraging community participation. This is currently being researched and will soon be available.
- Committee members need to look over their contact information for any errors. They also see if any names have been omitted that really should be part of the committee. Although the group is large, there is room for a few more people if necessary.
- The next meeting, focusing on demographic information, will be on June 12, 2007.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.