



Budget Stabilization Task Force

November 7, 2018

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

McCallum High School

MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Adolphus Anderson, Cesar Benavides, K.C. Cerny, Michael Cranor, Vanessa Dainton Santamaria, Christina Dunigan, Jason Durst, Amir Emamian, Kevin Garcia, James Haynes, Dulce Hernandez, Tanner Long, Claire Milam, Helen Miller, Larry Perez, Kazique Prince, Teresa Razo, Sophie Ryland, Deborah Trejo, Casie Wenmohs, Ken Zarifis
Staff: Nicole Conley Johnson, Cristina Nguyen, Ali Ghilarducci, David Edgar, Christian Casarez Clarke

Visitors: 208 Students, family and community members signed in

1. Call to Order and Overview of Meeting Goals (5:51 pm)
2. Nicole Conley - Introduction
 - a. Austin has changed in 30 years, student needs have changed in 30 years, yet school finance laws have not. We have still not recovered from the cuts of 2011 and still we find ourselves with a shortfall. We need parents and staff to advocate for our public schools. We need to increase the pot of money.
3. Review Task Force Agreements
4. Public Comment (5:58 pm)
 - a. John Patton - Maintain budget for fine arts programs and block schedules. Fine Arts education meets real student needs. If teachers lose their second planning period, they will be more stressed and less prepared to offer students engaging educational opportunities or focus on their needs, many of which are social and emotional, not just academic.
 - b. Denali Ja - Moved to Austin and had to decide on what school he would be attending. He chose McCallum and has done well at this school in this program. Encourages the committee to keep funding for magnet programs like the Fine Arts program at McCallum.
 - c. Karen Foster - Is here to advocate for the teachers. She is here to voice her opposition to increasing class sizes and taking away second planning period. We need to value our teachers. One period every other day is not enough to plan and grade and council students. What is the hidden cost? Turnover. We need to do something to keep our teachers. That is not what we want for our teachers and it's not what we want for our kids.
 - d. Melissa Martin - Asks that the committee does not take away second planning period for teachers. Is a parent of graduates of AISD and cares about the AISD

community. Not only will we lose teachers but we will lose families. That is not what we want for our district or our community.

- e. Emma Wallis - Student at McCallum Fine Arts Academy, please look at the people behind the numbers you are evaluating when making the decisions you are here to make. Theater is powerful. It has changed my life. It gives students hope. We ask that you support us and make recommendations to the board that support our dreams and fund Fine Arts academies like ours.
 - f. Evan Bookout - Freshman at McCallum, loves music, and comes from a family of musicians. Feels at home in McCallum and feels that McCallum has allowed him to develop his skills. Attending McCallum has opened doors for scholarships and success in future education. Asks that the committee help protect programs like the Fine Arts program at McCallum.
 - g. Emily Freeman - Wants to speak about what the student body feels about the suggestions to cut funding to special programs. We feel like we do not matter. It stings. Students come from all over to learn from the amazing teachers here at McCallum. The McCallum student body does not approve the proposed cuts to special program funding. We hope that you take our opinions into consideration when making your recommendations.
 - h. Public comment concludes. Alison Alter, McCallum parent - Would like to capture the energy of people mobilizing to protect fine arts programming and teacher and turn it toward organizing at the state legislature. While our property taxes go up, we're only keeping half of those dollars and the legislature needs to do something about the outdated formulas. Invites attendees to join her and other parent leaders in the MAC to learn about AISD's legislative priorities and how to testify at the capitol.
5. Approval of Minutes (Oct. 24)
 - a. Tanner Long motions, Andy Anderson seconds, no discussion, all in favor.
 6. [Staffing and Compensation Presentation and Dialogue](#) - Mike Cranor and Ken Zarifis
 - a. Q: Does the review of Central Office Administration include Parent Support Specialists? A: No, it does not.
 - b. Q: Clarification on point system under PPfT, is it cumulative year over year? A: Yes
 - c. Q: Is there a max number of points teachers can earn? A: Yes, there is.
 - d. Q: Have you looked at tying turnover to administrators for accountability? A: Yes, we have. Some studies have shown, teachers do not leave schools, they leave principals.
 - e. Q: Slide 4, how is that different from the current budget and finance committee? A: You are correct, there are other committees. The bottom line is that all the committees created around these topics need to communicate and work together and align the discussion.
 - f. Q: PPfT, if you are in an enhanced school you can earn a significant amount of compensation (23,000) and take it with you even after moving to a different campus? A: Yes, that is correct. Teachers expanding their expertise and lifting their profession should be valued.
 - g. Q: Where do evaluations come into play within this system? A: PPfT is consistently evaluated. Evaluations are measures that need to evolve and constantly evaluated for improvement.
 - h. Comment: I do not agree that teachers leave principals. Teachers need to be held accountable. We have some great principals in this district. It is not right to say that teachers leave principals. That is not true in all cases.
 7. Review Survey Results

- a. Q: Education Austin has a scheduling conflict with next Wednesday. Can we push to Thursday?
- b. Deborah motions to move meeting to Thursday. Teresa seconds. Discussion:
 - i. Q: What kind of meeting is this? A: Executive meeting (decision making meeting) and getting feedback from the Education Austin Board to bring information to this body.
 - ii. Q: What is the purpose of the BSTF meeting next week? A: To do a final revision of the survey information, add more feedback and make a final decision on proposal to the Superintendent.
 - iii. Q: If we move it to Thursday, would we be able to offer input without being here?
 - iv. Comment: If we had more of a grassroots committee we wouldn't be having these issues. A lot of community members have not been included in these proposals and these meetings. The information from these meetings is not being shared with the community. It's about special interest groups. Why don't we talk about all the money that is being paid to consultants?
 - v. Q: Why isn't that data being included in the survey? A: Opportunities have been given to include in the survey.
 - vi. Q: Can we be respectful in this space?
 - vii. Comment: I have been disrespected every time I speak in this committee. A: We care about your community. We created a sub-committee for this topic. You are right. We need to address these issues, but we need to have these conversations in different places because it is too time consuming given what we have to accomplish when we are all together.
 - viii. Comment: This is a democracy. I have freedom of speech. I am watching everything. It is a very political system. I am the oldest person on this committee and I have been mistreated. Any time I request something it's an issue. Why do you have a screening process for this committee? Members were cherry picked? No one has boots on the ground experience like I have. Sometimes I have to raise my voice to be heard.
 - ix. Chief Business and Operations Officer: It is my team that pulls the data. We have worked hard to get you the information you requested. I have just completed the report you asked for. I will make time to answer your questions.
 - x. Comment: Please look at Q36 - this question addresses the issues you have brought up for the last few months. We need to focus on creating evaluation measurements for program and establish a process to sunset those programs that have not delivered.
 - xi. Can you please clarify what data you feel has not been reviewed adequately? A: Vendor payments and procurement spending.
 - xii. Q: Does Q36 adequately respond to the questions you created in the subcommittee you were a part of?
 - xiii. Q: The district management group, what is the administrative overhead cost? A: The administrative overhead is included in the calculated return on investment.
 - xiv. Q: Can we get back to the original question? Are we moving the meeting to Thursday of next week?
 - xv. Comment: Members can still offer input even if they are unable to attend the meeting on Thursday if the committee decides to move the meeting.
 - xvi. VOTE: 14 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstained

- xvii. Q: How many can come Thursday? A: 9
- xviii. Q: How many can come Wednesday? A: 12
- xix. Comment: I am not trying to force the committee to move the meeting to Thursday. Someone made a motion to move it to Thursday, we voted.
- xx. Comment: If our goal was to make a recommendation in November, we cannot drag this on. If you cannot attend the meeting next week you can submit your feedback online.
- xxi. Motion to move meeting back to Wednesday, Sophie seconds.
Discussion:
- xxii. Q: What is the meeting for? To discuss the survey more? We need to be clear about how much more work will be committee work and not just tri chair work.
- xxiii. Comment: We need to also discuss what will be pushed through as a recommendation? Majority? That needs to be decided on within the committee?
- xxiv. The committee needs to come to consensus about what you will be recommending to the Superintendent.
- xxv. Vote: 14 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained
- xxvi. Comment: We will be evaluating your presentations and if we feel there are gaps we will ask for more information.
- xxvii. Comment: The undecided votes on the survey were high. We need more information. Would you be able to offer us more information to the group?
- xxviii. Comment: I am confused about what product we are creating. We need to come to an agreement about what product we will be presenting to the Superintendent. We need to work together and be unified and stand proudly behind our work.
- xxix. Comment: The committee was asked to cut, but we have not looked at where the money is going and why we are in deficit. There are a lot of things that have not been looked at to decrease the deficit.
- xxx. Comment: One of the challenges that I have experienced from previous task forces I have been a part of is that trying to agree will take more time to come to a consensus. We may not agree but this is what we voted on. We give them detailed analysis.
- xxxi. Comment: Looking at what we have talked about and how our work may overlap with work done within other committees there is information we have not seen because it has already been analyzed by other committees. We do not need to do the work again. Other committees have done more focused work than what we could do. Why are we trying to waste time on analyzing spending on programs when it has already been addressed? We cannot keep going around in circles trying to address the issues of programs.
- xxxii. Q: I think we could have more agreement if we were able to make comments on a yes vote. Can we change the next version where comments can be made with any of the choices?
- xxxiii. Comment: We will never have all the information. We will never agree. We will not solve public education. All we can do is be transparent and honest. Moving forward we need to focus on the topics of discussions that have consensus as far as "this has potential" and let that be the conversation.
- xxxiv. Comment: Looking at the macro budget, there are a lot of programs. Trustees vote on programs, but they don't know what those programs

are. They ask about the programs and they are not told. No one understands what these programs are. There is little to no oversight. There needs to be criteria established for how these programs are procured and if and how they work for our district.

xxxv. Comment: Community Schools helps orchestrate the use and placement of programs. This evaluation and effort need to be done district-wide and not only campus-based.

xxxvi. Comment: We have to have a more systematic approach to the effectiveness of the programs we have.

xxxvii. Q: How many people answered the survey? A: 22 responses.

xxxviii. Q: So, 22 out of 25. A: I believe so. I need to look back on the exact numbers.

8. Closure, Homework, Next Steps

a. Ali will include the staffing options presented today in the next survey.

9. Adjourn (8:29 pm)