

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Annual Retreat
October 9, 2018

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Cindy Anderson, Board of Trustees
Christian Clarke Casarez, Finance
Nicole Conley Johnson, CFO
Julie Cowan, Board of Trustees
Joey Crumley, AICP, Innovation and Development
David Edgar, Finance
Ali Ghilarducci, Communications and Community Engagement
Eva Gonzales, Finance
Brian Hill, Superintendent's Office
Clare Milam, Budget Stabilization Task Force
Kevin Schwartz, CIO
Ann Teich, Board of Trustees
Dr. Mary Thomas, State and Federal Accountability

PROCEEDINGS

Preliminaries

- The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jane Ross at 8:35 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the AISD Performing Arts Center.

2018-19 Title I Equity Plan

- Dr. Mary Thomas, Executive Director of State and Federal Accountability, provided a presentation that included the following points:
 - ☞ The plan must be submitted on a standard state template.
 - ☞ This is now an annual process, with DAC input required.
 - ☞ The plan ensures that the most experienced teachers are assigned to the students with the greatest needs.
 - ☞ Title I funding can only be used for certain purposes.
 - ☞ Considerable data gathering and analysis are involved in the process.
 - ☞ In addition to the DAC, input is also gathered from other sources.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ The plan doesn't currently address principal experience, but that could be considered.
 - ☞ Title I Campus Improvement Plans (CIPs) have to address all elements of Title I, including recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers.
 - ☞ Professional development is an important strategy in recruitment and retention.
 - ☞ There is professional development and other assistance for teachers who may be struggling.
 - ☞ Parents have the right to know the credentials of teachers.
 - ☞ ELL data is part of the data analysis.
 - ☞ Some Title I funding goes to HR for recruiting diverse teachers.
 - ☞ Some Campus Advisory Councils (CACs) don't spend a lot of time on their CIPs.
 - ☞ CIPs should be monitored periodically by CACs.
 - ☞ Principals need more CAC/CIP training.

- ☞ Principals and CACs are given guidance on the functions of CACs, including CIPs.
- ☞ Core subject areas must be taught by certified teachers.
- ☞ TEA needs to better define the term, “excellent educator.”
- ☞ Current CIPs for all campuses are available online.
- ☞ CIPs use a standard template, but what each campus enters into the template is unique.
- ☞ For Title I schools, parents must receive certain information.

State of District Finances

- Nicole Conley Johnson, CFO, provided a state-level presentation which included the following points:
 - ☞ Among all states, Texas ranks poorly in the area of school finance.
 - ☞ Recapture is projected to increase, with state financial support for public education projected to decrease.
 - ☞ A specially convened School Finance Commission has been looking at possible reforms to the state school finance system, with a report due by the end of December.
 - ☞ Much of the state financial aid for school districts can't be spent on teachers.
 - ☞ The Commission is considering some deletions and some adjustments to the current funding formulas.
 - ☞ The Commission recognizes the need to find better criteria for identifying students in need, other than free and reduced meals.
 - ☞ There is talk among state leadership about capping tax rates, which could limit local revenues.
 - ☞ We'll continue trying to get some credit for providing Social Security.
- Ms. Johnson then provided a district-level presentation which included the following points:
 - ☞ Because of increasing home values, our tax revenues have increased.
 - ☞ But we're still looking at a \$17 million shortfall for 2018-19.
 - ☞ Setting priorities means we have to pay for them.
 - ☞ Fiscal stewardship and prioritization are among the Board's priorities.
 - ☞ There will be a narrow focus on student achievement in funding decisions.
 - ☞ There will definitely be some tough decisions to make – we're going to have to make some changes in the way we do business.
 - ☞ We still want to maintain a long-term structural balance and our good financial ratings.
 - ☞ We need to be transparent and communicate the budget to all stakeholders in an understandable way.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ Even with proposed changes level, we'll probably still fall short on funding for full-day PK.
 - ☞ Not sure about all of the state's specifics related to district partnerships for PK, but AISD has had such partnerships.
 - ☞ Our Office of Innovation and Development assists schools with finding grants.
 - ☞ State funding is supposed to ensure adequate educational support, but that's certainly debatable.
 - ☞ More of our students are entering elementary school ready.
 - ☞ Community advocates can help in areas of supporting legislative candidates, working with PTAs, and testifying at the Capitol.
 - ☞ What public education gets out of the Texas Lottery is really just a spit in the bucket.
 - ☞ Class size caps affect different campuses in different ways.

Update on Budget Stabilization Task Force

- Clare Milam, Co-chair of the BSTF, provided an update that included the following points:
 - ☞ The BSTF has a very representative and diverse membership.
 - ☞ The BSTF has been reviewing an immense amount of data.
 - ☞ The BSTF isn't necessarily focused on cutting the budget, rather the strategic allocation of available resources.

- ☞ BSTF criteria include:
 - Impact on student achievement
 - Financial impact
 - Impact on equity
 - Impact on enrollment
 - Impact on recruitment/retention of highly qualified staff
 - Administrative and political feasibility
- ☞ BSTF recommendations will include dissenting opinions.
- ☞ BSTF recommendations will reflect district priorities.
- ☞ A special analytical tool being used by the BSTF can be used to gain DAC input.
- ☞ Stabilizing the budget is something that can't be done in just one year.
- ☞ There are several ways for the public to monitor the work of the task force and to stay in touch.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ The task force will be encouraging CAC input.
 - ☞ Conference periods for teachers are just a consideration at this point.
 - ☞ The task force has had some of its meetings in different parts of the district; tomorrow's meeting will be at Reagan.
 - ☞ None of the factors leading to budget decisions are weighted – they will all be considered, and the Board will make the final decisions.
 - ☞ The BSTF Co-chairs are dedicated to being transparent and thorough.

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Cruz provided an update that included the following points.
 - ☞ Our North Star is kids, nothing else.
 - ☞ Districts have received their first A-F ratings from the state, and campuses will receive their ratings in a few months. AISD earned an 89, for a B rating.
 - ☞ All accountability standards were met by 116 of our campuses.
 - ☞ We're a pilot district for looking at other possible measures of performance.
 - ☞ Schools must be the units of change.
 - ☞ We have a lot of work upcoming around our core beliefs.
 - ☞ We're also doing a lot around the Facilities Master Plan and bond implementation.
 - ☞ We believe strongly in partnerships, such as with Capital Metro and the Austin Public Library.
 - ☞ The lenses for our work include equity, trusting relationships, and focus on the classroom and the instructional core.
- Discussion points included:
 - ☞ We're still communicating with the City of Austin about possible revenue agreements.
 - ☞ Equitable access to technology for all students is very important.
 - ☞ We're utilizing Blend a lot now, and we're using a lot less paper.
 - ☞ Teacher leveling seems to be more of a widespread concern this year.

Breakout Group Discussions

- In preparation for a new district strategic planning process on the near horizon, Joey Crumley asked members to begin thinking strategically – in other words, not trying to address everything we do, rather the things that need the most attention. But, reiterating what Ms. Conley said, setting priorities means you have to pay for them.
- Members broke in three discussion groups, to recommend strategic plan and budget priorities. Attached are the recommendations of each group.

Conclusion

- The meeting was adjourned by Andy Anderson at 2:20 p.m.

BREAKOUT GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS On Strategic Plan and Budget Priorities

Group 1

- Early childhood-2nd grade literacy investment, with innovative programming
- Customer service, with innovative systems
- Marketing and external partnerships
- Boundaries/choice equity

Group 2

- Equity in access to resources and programs
- Culturally responsive education
- Partnerships
- Communication and engagement with stakeholders

Group 3

- Address gaps in student achievement
- Teacher recruitment/retention
- Attracting/retaining students
- Campus consolidations
- Equity in access to resources and programs
- Culturally responsive education
- Streamlining operations
- Lower class sizes
- SEL as a function of ready to learn
- Campus support staff

DAC MEMBER ATTENDANCE
October 9, 2018

| Name | Category | Vertical Team | School | Present |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Heather Shaw | Parent | Akins | Perez | No |
| Lance Lunsford | Parent | Akins | Menchaca | Yes |
| Mario Piña | Teacher | Akins | Paredes | No |
| Wayne Lopes | Teacher | Akins | Menchaca | Yes |
| Stacey Thompson | Parent | Anderson | Anderson | Yes |
| Shannon Meroney | Parent | Anderson | Doss | Yes |
| Christy Cochran | Librarian | Anderson | Murchison | Yes |
| Thuy Nguyen | Teacher | Anderson | Summitt | Yes |
| Barbara Knaggs | Parent | Austin | O.Henry | Yes |
| Vera Muñiz | Parent | Austin | Zilker | Yes |
| Sedric Pinkny | Teacher | Austin | O.Henry | No |
| Lisa Haney | Parent | Bowie | Clayton | Yes |
| Travis Botello | Parent | Bowie | Bowie | No |
| Daniel Gonzalez | Teacher | Bowie | Bailey | Yes |
| Dawn Dammann | Teacher | Bowie | Gorzycki | Yes |
| Zoe Trieff | Parent | Crockett | Sunset Valley | No |
| Brenda Flores-Dollar | Parent | Crockett | Crockett | No |
| Kristel Nichols | Teacher | Crockett | St. Elmo | Yes |
| Roland Hutson | Teacher | Eastside Memorial | Allison | Yes |
| Steven Morris | Teacher | Eastside Memorial | Brooke | No |
| Isa Boonto-Zarifis | Teacher | Lanier | Lanier | No |
| Laurie Beaman | Teacher | Lanier | Lanier | No |
| Betty Johnson | Parent | LBJ | LBJ | No |
| Carrie Griffith | Parent | LBJ | Blanton | Yes |
| Daniela Ruiz | Teacher | LBJ | Harris | No |
| Blanca Galvez-Perez | Teacher | LBJ | Andrews | Yes |
| Sam Russo | Parent | McCallum | Brentwood | Yes |
| Julie Ziegelman | Parent | McCallum | McCallum | Yes |
| Cari Land | Counselor | McCallum | Highland Park | Yes |
| Yvonne McDaniel | Teacher | McCallum | McCallum | Yes |
| Andy Sams | Parent | Reagan | Winn | Yes |
| Dr. Deanna Mercer | Parent | Reagan | Reagan | No |
| Maya McElroy | Librarian | Reagan | Graham | Yes |
| Claudia Torres | Teacher | Reagan | Webb | Yes |
| Deborah Trejo | Parent | Travis | Travis | No |
| Sandy Chilton | Teacher | Travis | Uphaus | Yes |
| Lana Machado | Teacher | Travis | Fulmore | No |
| Jane MacLean | Parent | Special Campuses | Richards | Yes |
| Annemarie Read | Parent | Special Campuses | LASA | Yes |
| Danna Roberts | Teacher | Special Campuses | ALC | No |
| Framy Diaz | Principal | Not Applicable | Cook | Yes |
| Jennifer Pace | Principal | Not Applicable | Widen | Yes |
| Jess De La Huerta | Princioal | Not Applicable | Dobie | Yes |
| Dr. Susan Thames | Assistant Principal | Not Applicable | Akins | Yes |
| Laurie Solis | ACPTA | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Lynn Boswell | ACPTA | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Michael Supancic | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Excused |
| LaDonna Massad | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Cathy Painter | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |

| Name | Category | Vertical Team | School | Present |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Toni Rayner | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Paul Mitchell | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Candace Aylor | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Excused |
| Sondra Marks | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Cathy McHorse | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Drew Bixby | Business | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Excused |
| Kathy Winfrey | Classified Employee | Not Applicable | Winn | Yes |
| Dr. Jane Ross | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Bonnie Hauser | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Alonzo Blankenship | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Andy Anderson | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Vickie Black | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Kevin Manzke | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Kathy Green | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| James Wetter | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Alberto Gonzalez | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Excused |
| Genevieve Dell | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Excused |
| Connor Fierro | Student | Not Applicable | LASA | No |
| Sophie Ryland | Student | Not Applicable | McCallum | No |
| Alternating Trustee | Trustee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Dr. Paul Cruz | Superintendent | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |