

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
January 19, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Staff/Trustees in Attendance

Oscar Arroyo, Travis ECHS
Lacey Blackley, Travis ECHS
Lynn Boswell, Board of Trustees
Letty Casiano, School, Family, and Community Education
Juliana Castillo, Innovation and Development
Joey Crumley, Innovation and Development
Katy Escandell, Dyslexia/504
Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, Superintendent
Carolyn Hanschen, Accountability and Assessment
Christina Hantgin, Travis ECHS
Dr. Akweta Hickman, Special Education
Jennifer Limon, Special Education
Noelita Lugo, Board of Trustees
Chad Ouellette, Special Education
Dr. Jacob Reach, Chief Officer, Governmental Relations and Board Services
Arathi Singh, Board of Trustees
Jennifer Stephens, Ortega ES
Tyler Vanhook, Innovation and Development
Michelle Wallis, Innovation and Development
Dr. Gloria Williams, School, Family, and Community Education

Visitors in Attendance

Amin Duran
Amanda Grantham
Kaitlyn Hale
Jackie Martinez
Heather Merritt
Leo Muniz
Eliseo Reyna
Daniel Riegel
Myrna Ruvalcaba
Vinny Saldana
Amy Shirey
Jennifer Sloan
Storm Vance
Shreya Vohra
Diana Zake

PROCEEDINGS

Preliminaries

- The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Dr. Jane Ross at 4:31 p.m.

- There were no public comments.
- Dr. Ross announced that Travis ECHS was hosting this meeting, and introduced the principal, Christina Hantgin, who showed a video about the high points of her school.

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Elizalde went over the following points:
 - ☞ The district will receive 100% credit for the recent snow day.
 - ☞ Austin is now in Stage 5 for COVID; we are encouraging parents to keep their children at home if possible.
 - ☞ We are doing rapid COVID testing at campuses and some other locations.
 - ☞ We are still providing meals and WiFi access to the community.
 - ☞ Our number of students is down from what was expected, and trying to get TEA to hold us harmless.
 - ☞ We are implementing flexible schedules at campuses.
- Questions and comments included:
 - Question: Are parents letting schools know whether they are sending their kids to school?
 - Response: Many parents are, but some can only give short notice.
 - Comment: Seems confusing that we're still letting UIL activities go on.
 - Response: Local decisions can still be made. It's important for students to still be able to do this for their mental health during COVID. UIL is not just sports, and many students may have scholarships and college admission riding on participation.
 - Question: Do we have a long-term plan if COVID conditions persist, or recur after an apparent downturn?
 - Response: The way TEA works, it's hard for us to do long-term planning, even though it would be the best thing to do.
 - Question: Why were teachers granted accommodations in the fall not granted them in the spring?
 - Response: Flexible schedules have helped to address this; we're trying to provide maximum access to teachers.

District Calendar Options

- Dr. Akweta Gloria Williams presented two calendar options for each of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, as proposed by the Calendar Task Force.
- Questions and comments included:
 - Question: Do each of the proposed calendars meet the minimum minutes of instruction?
 - Response: Definitely, yes.
 - Question: Does ending the school year on an earlier date have an impact on economically disadvantaged parents?
 - Response: Historically, parents have tended to prefer ending school on an earlier date.
- Members were asked to electronically vote on their calendar preferences for each year. For both years, Option A received the most votes by a large margin.

Annual District Performance Report

- Carolyn Hanschen stated that the entire report was over 2,000 pages long and available on the district website. She went over the following highlights:
 - ☞ No performance ratings issued in 2019-20.
 - ☞ Basic indicators, such as attendance, graduation, and college/career/military readiness.
 - ☞ Enrollment and student demographics.
 - ☞ Program enrollment (e.g., special education, G/T, CTE, bilingual).
 - ☞ Teacher demographics and years of experience.
 - ☞ District recapture payment.
 - ☞ Campus performance objectives tied to the district's strategic plan.

- ☞ Violent and criminal incidents.
- ☞ Post-secondary performance.
- Questions and comments included:
 - Question: Will students be taking STAAR tests this year?
 - Response: Yes, everyone wants to know how students are doing under these conditions.
 - Question: Do campuses set performance targets?
 - Response: Yes, in alignment with district targets.

Special Education Discussion

- Dr. Akweta Hickman continued her discussion from the previous DAC meeting. She went over the following points:
 - ☞ Every parent receives a copy of procedural safeguards (the rights of parents and students).
 - ☞ There is a nationwide shortage of evaluation staff, but evaluations are underway and referrals to special education continue.
 - ☞ Strategies are in place to:
 - Build capacity of special education staff at the campus and district levels
 - Promote a growth mindset approach to teaching and learning
 - Implement accountability audits and complete TEA cyclical monitoring
 - Enhancing parental communications and engagement
 - Actively listen to teachers
 - ☞ Many instructional resources are provided to teachers.
 - ☞ We are utilizing data-drive practices that support ARDs in decision-making.
 - ☞ We are participating with ACC to train special education paraprofessionals.
- Questions and comments included:
 - Question: Are online curricula meant to supplement or supplant?
 - Response: To supplement – they are they to provide guidance to teachers.
 - Comment: Very excited to hear about parental communications and engagement, and listening to teachers.
 - Comment: We have made great improvements in special education, especially during the pandemic.
 - Question: Are all special education students STAAR-tested?
 - Response: Yes.
 - Question: Do special education students have access to mental health supports?
 - Response: Individual student needs are addressed in the IEP process, and mental health specialists are available.
 - Question: Is the district considering additional contract days for special education teachers?
 - Response: Not at this time, but this is something we do need to look at, and it does present a priority.
 - Comment: Perhaps the district should look into possible better virtual methods.
 - Response: Right now, there is only one company in the country that can help with virtual evaluation methods.
 - Comment: The district needs to do better with communications media and going to where the people are.
 - Response: Agreed, and we are trying very hard to reach all in our community.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by Andy Anderson at 6:38 p.m.

DAC MEMBER ATTENDANCE

| Name | Category | Vertical Team | School | Present |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| Trudy Richards | Parent | Akins | Akins | Yes |
| Joel Bergh | Parent | Akins | Baranoff | Yes |
| Maria Sebastian | Teacher | Akins | Perez | Yes |
| Krish Stella | Librarian | Akins | Blazier | Yes |
| Ryan Hazlett | Parent | Anderson | Murchison | No |
| Jessica Sanchez | Parent | Anderson | Pillow | Yes |
| Christy Cochran | Librarian | Anderson | Murchison | Yes |
| Thuy Nguyen | Teacher | Anderson | Summitt | No |
| Barbara Knaggs | Parent | Austin | O.Henry | Excused |
| Vera Muñiz | Parent | Austin | Zilker | No |
| Richard Kelly | Parent | Austin | Austin | Yes |
| Alyssa Potaszniak | Teacher | Austin | Austin | Excused |
| Matt Heisterman | Teacher | Bowie | Kiker | Yes |
| Emmaleigh Toto | Teacher | Bowie | Gorzycki | No |
| Zoe Trieff | Parent | Crockett | Sunset Valley | Yes |
| Kristel Nichols | Teacher | Crockett | St. Elmo | No |
| Ruth Tovar | Parent | Eastside Memorial | Brooke | Yes |
| Emma Mancha-Summers | Parent | Eastside Memorial | Sanchez | Excused |
| Roland Hutson | Teacher | Eastside Memorial | Allison | Yes |
| Nancy Adames | Parent | Navarro | Navarro | No |
| Isa Boonto-Zarifis | Teacher | Navarro | Lanier | Yes |
| Griselda Pena | Teacher | Navarro | Burnet | Yes |
| Reedy Spigner III | Parent | LBJ | Norman-Sims | No |
| Blanca Galvez-Perez | Teacher | LBJ | Andrews | Yes |
| Holly Eaton | Parent | McCallum | McCallum | Yes |
| Lisa Flores | Parent | McCallum | Lee | Yes |
| Maya McElroy | Librarian | Northeast | Graham | Yes |
| Claudia Torres | Teacher | Northeast | Webb | No |
| Cesar Benavides | Parent | Travis | Travis Heights | Yes |
| Katye Howell | Teacher | Travis | Travis | Yes |
| Marcy Morgan | Teacher | Travis | Dawson | No |
| Stephanie Jarnigan | Parent | Special Campuses | LASA | Yes |
| Sylvia Bell | Parent | Special Campuses | Richards | No |
| Julia Parker | Teacher | Special Campuses | ALC | No |
| 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 |
| Nina Wilson | ACPTA | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Jimmy Counihan | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Dr. Katherine Fugate | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Sondra Marks | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Cathy McHorse | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Heather Shaw | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Stacey Thompson | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Genevieve Dell | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Dr. Deanna Mercer | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Shannon Gleason | Business | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Billy Pringle | Business | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Kathy Winfrey | Classified Employee | Not Applicable | Winn | Yes |

| Name | Category | Vertical Team | School | Present |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Laurie Beaman | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Alonzo Blankenship | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Dr. Jane Ross | 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 | No |
| LaDonna Massad | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Paul Mitchell | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Toni Rayner | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Michael Supancic | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Paridhi Latawa | Student | Special | LASA | No |