

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools Summary of Meeting November 13, 2007</p>

Member Attendance:

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance:

Joey Crumley, AISD Planning & Community Relations

Dr. Janis Guerrero, AISD Planning & Community Relations

Proceedings:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:54 pm in Conference Room A-230 of the AISD Carruth Administration Center.
- There were no citizens communications.
- Janis Guerrero reported on a session focusing on the Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools recently hosted by her and Joey Crumley at the annual conference of the Council of Great City Schools in Nashville. She referred to information provided on school closure processes in Detroit and Milwaukee. She said most of the session attendees were from locations experiencing economic depression and significant population losses. Detroit, for example, was currently closing 51 schools, a quarter of its facilities. She said the session attendees were particularly interested in the extent to which Austin was engaging the community and ultimately aiming to implement formal district policy.
- The committee initiated discussion of possible best practices applicable to Austin. Reference was made to an extensive literature review previously provided to members. Discussion points included:
 - ☞ Chicago Public Schools has a “neighborhood office” that may offer a model for interlocal collaboration
 - ☞ The Family Resource Center at Allan Elementary School seems to be working well
 - ☞ Promoting neighborhood schools as one-stop-shops for community information sounds like a good idea
 - ☞ Neighborhood schools need a critical mass to be successful, and people need to promote the positive aspects of their neighborhoods and schools
 - ☞ Partnerships between schools can be beneficial, as well as partnerships between schools and businesses
 - ☞ More neighborhood association representatives should be on Campus Advisory Councils
 - ☞ AISD needs to provide a stronger commitment to its existing schools
 - ☞ Need to have more school and community groups going out into the neighborhoods where parents are
 - ☞ Perhaps look into Denver’s Beacon School
 - ☞ Multi-purposing of facilities is an alternative that can help address the ebbs and flows in population
 - ☞ A successful example in Florida has a dance company using part of a school, not only paying rent to the district but also providing instruction to students
 - ☞ A list of all the facility-use interlocal agreements with AISD would be interesting information to have
- Joey Crumley summarized the final results of the online survey. He said members were being provided several materials: an executive summary, a printout of the overall results, the names of schools of attendance identified by parents, the names of schools identified by

non-parents as their neighborhood schools, and a cross-tabulation of survey results by respondent ethnicity and category (i.e., parent, AISD employee, community member, student). Mr. Crumley made several points:

- ☞ Almost 1,500 total respondents, with 24 responses in Spanish
 - ☞ Most of the respondents were parents, White, female, and English-speaking
 - ☞ Respondents indicating “other” by category were actually “community members”
 - ☞ Due to the small number of Asian Americans, Native Americans, and students responding to the survey, these groups were not included in the analysis
 - ☞ Results were being summarized in broad topics such as community awareness, community involvement, and informing the community
 - ☞ Geographic representation of the respondents was not equal; although quite a few schools were identified by multiple respondents, just as many schools were identified only a very few times or not at all
 - ☞ Although there was no tremendous variance in most of the results based on respondent ethnicity and category, some significant variances were noted
 - ☞ The open-ended comments provided by respondents were many and had not yet been evaluated
- Dr. Guerrero said there were two options for evaluating the open-ended comments – either hire a temporary, which would be expensive, or have a subcommittee of members do the work. Members said they would like to see the data first before deciding; they said it might suffice to just go through the comments to find good ideas rather than doing a detailed analysis. Dr. Guerrero said the data would be ready to provide to members in just a few days. She explained that Program Evaluation staff were reviewing the data to ensure the privacy of respondents.
 - Members then continued their analysis of input received from various stakeholder sources. The brainstorming points from the previous meeting was now arranged by policy and process recommendation topics outlined in the committee’s charter. Most of the points fell under the topic of ensuring ongoing stakeholder engagement and participation, and members recognized that more points may be needed under the other headings.
 - Rachel Proctor May said that the co-chairs were scheduled to provide preliminary findings and recommendations to the Board of Trustees on December 10, meaning that there would be only one more regular committee meeting before that date. Some concern was expressed over the time constraint, with emphasis placed on the need to take enough time to do things right.
 - Dr. Guerrero explained that a full report was not expected until February, and that the full report would include several appendices to provide documentation and details of committee work. In regard to preparing for the December 10 Board meeting, she said that recommendations usually flow from findings.
 - Terry Clark suggested that members be thinking of preliminary findings and recommendations on their own and email them to staff for compilation and subsequent consideration by the committee, and members agreed that this was a good idea.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

CCNS Member Attendance Record:

	2007												2008		
	5/22	6/12	6/26	8/14	8/28	9/11	9/25	10/9	10/23	11/13	11/27	12/11	1/8	1/22	2/12
Andy Anderson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Sally Brackett	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Terry Clark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Christiane Woodley Erwin		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓							
Chiquita Watt Eugene															
Lourdes (Lulu) Flores	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Linda Gibeaut	✓	✓		✓	✓										
Rev. Sterling Lands	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓						
José Marrero	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Rachael Proctor May	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Susan Moffat	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Leroy Nellis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓							
Yolanda Pedraza	✓	✓		✓											
Rev. Ivie Rich	✓		✓												
Paul Saldaña	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Alfredo Santos	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓						
Kathie Tovo	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jim Walker	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓						

✓ = Present