

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools Summary of Meeting December 4, 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 5:44 pm in Conference Room A-230 of the AISD Carruth Administration Center.
- Andy Anderson debriefed members on a recent meeting held with Trustees Mark Williams and Vincent Torres. Comments made by the trustees included:
 - Pleased with the work done thus far by the committee
 - Not necessarily expecting to see recommendations at this point, rather an update on findings to date
 - End of February deadline for committee work may be extended, but need to identify things with budgetary implications pretty soon
- Joey Crumley provided information previously requested by members, including a description of Denver's Beacon Schools and a list of the AISD's interlocal agreements with the City of Austin and Travis County.
- Members discussed findings to be presented to the Board of Trustees on December 10 and to the Joint Subcommittees of the Board, City Council, and County Commissioners Court on December 14. Initial discussion points included:
 - Need both established criteria and flexibility to address individual campus situations
 - Need to be creative in gaining community and business partnerships, and some schools may need more assistance than others
 - Need to reach out the broader community, not just parents
 - Need to make schools more marketable
- Members then focused on their major findings to date and possible review criteria *(see attached summary)*.
- Andy Anderson and Rachel Proctor May said they would be meeting with staff later in the week to prepare for their presentations to the Board of Trustees and the Joint Subcommittees.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools Major Findings December 4, 2007</p>
--

Criteria for identifying underutilized and overcrowded schools

- Current school capacity calculations need revision:
 - School capacity and use determinations need to be consistent, clearly defined, and reflective of variables and considerations identified by the community as important.
 - School capacity and use determinations, and the criteria upon which these are based, should be communicated regularly to all community stakeholders.
 - Community stakeholders should be informed and actively engaged in ongoing dialogues about criteria, process, and school capacity and use.

Criteria for assessing alternatives (e.g., revitalizing, repurposing, realigning, closing)

- Parents, students, community members, and all possible stakeholders, including other governmental entities, should be involved as early as possible in an authentic process to identify root causes, assess the situation, and collaborate on developing alternatives.
- The community has an overwhelming interest in revitalization; closing a neighborhood school should be considered as a last resort, only when viable alternatives have been exhausted.

Criteria for assessing conditions (e.g., academic performance, environmental implications, use of resources, added value both quantitative and qualitative)

- Assessment considerations should include the criteria noted above for identifying overcrowded and underutilized schools and assessing alternatives, as well as any additional factors identified by the community.

Opportunities for interlocal collaboration

- AISD would benefit from more active engagement in community and regional planning efforts. Possible avenues of engagement could include:
 - Assigning staff to review Planning Commission agendas and providing comments on items as appropriate;
 - Developing policies to encourage multi-purposing of school facilities and to enable campuses to provide space to the city, non-profits, child care centers, and senior centers;
 - Coordinating capital planning efforts; and,
 - Holding more frequent Joint Subcommittees meetings.

Procedures for identifying and ensuring ongoing stakeholder engagement and participation (e.g., neighborhood surveys, input from parents, students, and teachers)

- Survey respondents and focus group participants showed a much higher level of trust with campus staff than with district administration and the Board of Trustees. This trust at the campus level is a strength to build on, such as through improved Campus Advisory Council leadership training.
- Each school community is different in how it prefers to receive information.
- AISD needs to expand its communication with stakeholders who may not have direct connections to schools (e.g., neighborhood associations, churches, businesses, non-parents, retirees).
- AISD needs to regularly inform the community of criteria and timelines through which major decisions are made and where each campus stands in relation to them.

Possible Review Criteria

Process and policy is needed that clearly defines and is inclusive of all variables, including but not limited to:

- Enrollment
- When kids are eating lunch
- Academic performance and state/federal accountability status
- Current utilization of the campus
- Possible other uses of the campus
- Number of high-need kids and the nature of their needs
- Transportation
- School location
- Demographic trends and projections
- Range of services provided by school
- Transfer policies
- Age of facility

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	11/14	11/27	12/4	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