

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
March 21, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Dr. Darlene Westbrook, Gloria Sullivan, Dr. Ann Smisko, Martha Garcia, Joan Altobelli, Dr. Janis Guerrero, Joey Crumley

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Carruth Administration Center.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 20, 2006 meeting were approved.

Citizens Communications

- There were no citizens communications.

Committee Reports

- Ramon DeJesus reported that the Boundary Task Force was continuing its deliberations and holding public meetings.
- Buddy Owen reported that the start of the Budget Task Force had been delayed until May 17.

Announcement

- Dr. Jane Ross announced the passing of DAC member Constance Skeete. A moment of silence was observed in her remembrance.

Use of 2006-2007 Professional Development Days

- Gloria Sullivan, Director of Professional Development, presented proposed use of 2006-2007 professional development days, for which the Executive Committee was recommending approval by the full DAC.
- Ms. Sullivan pointed out that the Board had already set the calendar for the 2006-2007 school year, including the days for professional development; however, she said the DAC needed to approve the topics to be considered on those days.
- Ms. Sullivan said a three-year TEA waiver was in its last year to allow three extra days of professional development instead of using those days for instruction. She said the district expected to reapply for the waiver. Some concern was expressed over professional development taking away from instruction.
- The DAC moved to approve the use of 2006-2007 professional development days as proposed.

Amendment to Policy EFA-Local

- Dr. Ann Smisko, Executive Director of Curriculum, explained that the proposed policy amendment related to the use of possibly sensitive instructional materials. She said the amendment would require prior screening by teachers and approval by principals. For approved materials, she added that parents could still opt-out, and alternate materials would have to be provided.
- Dr. Smisko pointed out that this type of process was already being used at most campuses, and the proposed amendment was to ensure that it became official district policy.
- Discussion points included:
 - Teachers may choose to avoid the process altogether and kids will lose out
 - This adds one more requirement to the many already placed on teachers
 - The proposed amendment being driven by a particular incident
 - This may serve to liberate teachers from possible parental concerns coming after the fact
 - Need to honor the concerns and values of parents
 - Many parents feel R-rated films are simply not appropriate for classroom use
 - A standardized approach does teachers and administrators a favor
- The DAC moved to accept the proposed amendment as information received.

Update on Bilingual Education Program

- Martha Garcia, Executive Director of Bilingual Education, explained that Bilingual Education was covered by certain statutory requirements. Particularly, English Language Learners (ELLs) must be provided with opportunities to advance in their education.
- Ms. Garcia reported that AISD currently has about 20,000 ELLs, of which about 95% are Spanish-speaking. She said the second-largest group were Vietnamese. She pointed out that the majority (about 70%) of ELLs were not immigrants.
- Ms. Garcia explained that Bilingual Education uses the student's native language to learn English, while also teaching proficiency in the native language. She said Bilingual Education also promotes biculturalism and supports the global economy.
- Ms. Garcia said that challenges in Bilingual Education included: implementation of a consistent, research-based program; apprehensiveness, even fear, over immigrants; and people of Hispanic ancestry maintaining their ability to speak Spanish.
- Ms. Garcia felt it was important to emphasize speaking multiple languages.
- Discussion points included:
 - Bilingual Education receives a lot of support from the Board and Superintendent, but it still needs to be elevated in its overall importance
 - A big challenge is when students come in unschooled or with limited schooling in their native language, particularly at older ages; however, intensive assistance is available at the middle and high school levels
 - An advisory committee of campus representatives has been set up for English as a Second Language (ESL)
 - Spanish and Vietnamese speakers go into Bilingual Education, but speakers of other languages go into ESL (in which there is not the same emphasis on native language proficiency)

- Growing need for Bilingual Education teachers at every grade level at every campus
- Need to find ways to keep Bilingual Education teachers in AISD; need to increase stipends
- Some discussion is currently going on at the federal level to cut certain Bilingual Education funding
- As our Spanish-speaking population continues to grow, we need to have a heartfelt discussion on a dual-language approach
- Need to consider a peer academic support system
- Need to get more supports for students who speak languages other than Spanish
- The DAC requested additional information on the number of Bilingual Education teachers currently in AISD, the number actually needed, and what it would take to be competitive in attracting and keeping them.

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Forgione went over several options dealing with Becker and Oak Springs Elementary Schools, with some of those options involving campus repurposing.
- Dr. Forgione reported that Austin had gone from a 48% to an approximately 60% poverty level in the last five years. He said the Young Women's Leadership Academy would target an enrollment of two-thirds poverty students.
- Dr. Forgione announced that he would be forming a task force on early childhood development that would bring forward a detailed plan by October. He said he realized the need to give more warning of possible actions to schools with particularly low or high enrollments.
- Dr. Forgione stressed that in lean times it was important to do everything we can to be more efficient with our resources.
- Dr. Forgione felt that any tax reform passed by the State Legislature would not result in any new funding to schools.

Update on Special Education Program

- Joan Altobelli, Director of Special Education, said she recently got to address Senator Kennedy's staff about the President's proposal to cut IDEA funding.
- Ms. Altobelli said her task was clear: to decrease Special Education referrals and increase inclusion. She said AISD was getting ever closer to the state's maximum ratio for self-contained versus least-restrictive environment. She said AISD was committed to inclusion and felt the district was making significant progress.
- Ms. Altobelli said that effective interventions in General Education can help avoid Special Education testing and referrals. She said intervention training for teachers is a priority. She said teachers needed to better differentiate between a true disability and a struggling learner.
- Discussion points included:
 - Need to make sure the system is not cumbersome, and that we do not deprive students of services who really need them
 - Technical qualification for a disability should not be enough to place a student in Special Education

- Need to ensure that all students are equipped with what they need to lead quality lives
- Detention and calling parents are not examples of interventions
- Discipline problems and underachievement should not necessarily be a trigger for Special Education identification
- Early intervention can be critical
- Students with severe disabilities are different; they are identified at very early stages and receive appropriate services throughout their educational experience

DAC 2006-2007 Budget Priorities

- Buddy Owen requested that DAC members forward any recommendations or comments on budget priorities to the co-chairs.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

AISD District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance	2005					2006						
	6/21	8/16	9/20	10/18	11/15	1/17	2/20	3/21	4/18	5/16		
AKINS VERTICAL TEAM												
Linda Velasquez, Parent, Akins HS (1/2)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Vacancy, Parent*</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Cheryl Bollish, Teacher, Menchaca ES (2/1)		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
Roger Henson, Teacher, Akins HS (2/1)		✓	✓			✓		✓				
ANDERSON VERTICAL TEAM												
Stacey Silverman, Parent, Hill ES (1/2*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Laura Tuma, Parent, Murchison MS (1/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Dee Willars, Teacher, Anderson HS (1/2)		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Krystall Colhoff, Teacher, Hill ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓				
AUSTIN VERTICAL TEAM												
Vickie Black, Parent, Matthews ES (4/1*)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Buddy Owen, Parent, Austin HS (5/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Linda Beavan, Teacher, O. Henry MS (1/1)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sheryl Van Hoose, Teacher, Patton ES (2/2)		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
BOWIE VERTICAL TEAM												
Laura Ammer, Parent, Kocurek ES (1/1*)	N/A	N/A	N/A		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Craig Hackler, Parent, Bowie HS (3/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Vicki Everett, Teacher, Bailey MS (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Kari Sulak, Teacher, Baranoff ES (1/1)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
CROCKET VERTICAL TEAM												
Patty Gaston, Parent, Cunningham ES (1/2)		✓	✓		✓							
Wendy Brown, Parent, Galindo ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓					
Linda Johnson, Teacher, Odom ES (1/2)		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Lucille Camarillo-May, Teacher, St. Elmo ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓					
JOHNSTON VERTICAL TEAM												
Gerald Guerra, Parent, Allan ES (1/1*)	✓					✓						
<i>Vacancy, Parent</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Joe Moore, Teacher, Martin JH (3/1)					✓	✓	✓					
Lisa Hernandez, Teacher, Metz ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	✓	✓								
LANIER VERTICAL TEAM												
Ines Cariel, Parent, Woodrige ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓					
Lisa Brionez, Parent, Pillow ES (1/1*)	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Isabel Cano, Teacher, Cook ES (1/1)	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				
Tammy Phuong, Teacher, McBee ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				
LBJ VERTICAL TEAM												
Kate Friday, Parent, LBJ HS (2/2)		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				
Frank Gibson, Parent, Harris ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓				
Laura Smith-Everet, Teacher, Blanton ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓				
Camille Barth, Teacher, Sims ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓			✓				
McCALLUM VERTICAL TEAM												
Varshna Narumanchi-Jackson, Parent, Lee ES (1/1*)	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓				

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	6/21	8/16	9/20	10/18	11/15	1/17	2/20	3/21	4/18	5/16		
Karen Stevens, Parent, Kealing JH (1/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Pam Gonzalez, Teacher, Highland Park ES (1/1)			✓			✓						
Lizel Santiago, Teacher, Kealing JH (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
REAGAN VERTICAL TEAM												
Shaintay Abudu, Parent, Graham ES (1/1)			✓									
Tomi Welch, Parent, Graham ES (1/1*)	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				
Sue Shoopman, Teacher, Barrington ES (1/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					
<i>Vacancy, Teacher</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
TRAVIS VERTICAL TEAM												
Ramon DeJesus, Parent, Travis HS (5/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Adolphus Anderson, Parent, Rodriguez ES (2/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Frances Martinez, Teacher, Travis HS (1/1)	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓				
Douglas Rhodenbaugh, Teacher, Fulmore MS (2/1)			✓	✓				✓				
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS												
Pat Butler, Mills ES (1/2)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Cornel Jones, Norman ES (1/1)		✓				✓	✓					
Janie Ruiz, Becker ES (2/1)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS												
Jane Ross, Pearce MS (3/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Julia Fletcher, Bailey MS (1/2)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL												
Barbara Spelman, Austin HS (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
ACPTA REPRESENTATIVES												
<i>Vacancy, South</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Colin "CJ" Carl, North (1/2)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES												
Suzanne Stein (3/2*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Amy Averett (1/2*)		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE												
Linda Klar, Gilleland Creek Press Assoc. Services (1/2*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE												
Ruffina "BB" Coffill, St. Elmo ES (1/2*)								✓				
DISTRICT-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE												
Julie Lyons, Accountability (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
AT-LARGE MEMBERS												
Alberto Gonzalez, Parent, Fulmore MS (2/2*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Pascual Piedfort (3/1*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Vicki Baldwin, Principal, Garza HS (2/2*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (ex officio)												
Cheryl Bradley (1/1)	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				

= Total number of terms appointed/Year of current term

* = Appointed by DAC Executive Committee

Name in Bold = Co-Chair