

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
November 28, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Dr. Maria Whitsett, AISD Office of Accountability

MaryLu DeHoyos, AISD Office of Accountability

Kent Ewing, AISD Office of Redesign

Patti Everitt, AISD Office of Redesign

Amy Martin, AISD Office of Redesign

Joey Crumley, AISD Office of Planning & Community Relations

Gerard Jimenez, Parent

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. in the cafeteria of O.Henry Middle School.

Citizens Communications

There were no citizens communications.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 17, 2006 regular meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

- Jane Ross announced that the Task Force on Strategic Plan Review would like to gain input from DAC members on strategic plan progress.

Campus Profiles

- Maria Whitsett explained that Strategy 1.4 in the AISD Strategic Plan called for development of "campus report cards." She said the goal was to make these campus profiles clear and easy to understand. She said the prototypes distributed for discussion were colorful and all on one page. She added that she was very appreciative of previous input provided by the DAC and looked forward to input on the campus profiles.
- MaryLy DeHoyos said that input had already been received from central office staff, campuses, and the DAC Executive Committee. She said that the final campus profiles would be available in both English and Spanish. She asked for volunteers from the DAC to provide additional input in refining the campus profiles.
- A request was made to show data for both the current and previous year.

Strategic Plan

- Whereas the meeting was running early, Dr. Ross suggested getting input from DAC members at this time on the progress of strategic plan implementation.
- Andy Anderson first gave a brief status report on the work of the Task Force on Strategic Plan Review. He said that staff had conducted several in-depth interviews with individual community members and that an online survey was still being conducted. He also said that the task force recently held an open house to gain public input.
- Dr. Ross went over the six priority areas in the strategic plan, including: Student Achievement; Holistic Educational Experience; Learning Environment; Staff; Community; and Resources. She said that she was going to pose the same three questions raised during the interviews and the open house, relating to: progress being made; additional actions that need to be taken; and any changes that need to be made to the plan.
- Discussion points included:
 - Achieving a 100 percent goal of closing achievement gaps is hard to meet and it may not look like we are making progress when in fact we are
 - Data and information was provided at the open house, but was available beforehand online
 - Need to have better alignment between the strategic plan and the budget
 - The district has made significant progress in several areas
 - Not promoting students from eighth to ninth grade based on not meeting TAKS passing requirements has caused problems for middle schools
 - Students at the top of their class are often on their own, while other students receive most of the attention and resources
 - Greater Special Education inclusion will require more resources, and unsure if this has been fully thought out
 - Parent involvement and community involvement are two different things and should be addressed separately
 - Need to increase awareness of the strategic plan and its availability

High School Redesign

- Kent Ewing said that this year redesign activities would really be getting up to speed. He said he recognized a lot of people in the audience that had been working on redesign efforts.
- Patti Everitt provided a brief overview of redesign activities, including: challenges; background leading to redesign; need for change; disparities between campuses and between student groups; principles of redesign; structural and instructional changes based on rigor, relevance, relationships, and results (the “4 Rs”); current status at the district and campus levels; funding sources; projects specifically funded by the Gates and Dell foundations; and upcoming events.
- Discussion points included:
 - Securing significant funding is critical to success
 - Need to take the opportunity to tie increased demands on teachers with efforts to retain and compensate teachers
 - Need to gain more input from campus staff before hiring consultants

- Some schools may want to look more closely at “time banking” (early release)
- All high schools are involved in redesign at this time; we are not doing some schools now and some later
- AISD teachers are not largely concerned or negative about redesign; actually, teachers from other districts have shown great interest in what we are doing
- Most English Language Learners are native born, not immigrants
- We are looking at nationally acclaimed programs, methodologies, and models
- The main goal is to make all students college ready
- The district is trying to minimize taking teachers out of the classroom for related training
- For the most part, LASA will remain unchanged, but will get a separate PEIMS number from LBJ
- No one system can meet the needs of all students
- We are using a great deal of data to drive analysis, planning, and decision making
- Attaining instructional rigor should be the principal focus or the rest will not work; structure cannot interfere with instruction
- To what extent are we applying what we have learned from Garza and Johnston; we need to make sure and involve the entire community
- How much more data will we collect and analyze before we make the decision to redesign middle schools
- High school redesign is not something we are just now beginning; we have been working on it for six years
- Our kids are not just competing against other kids at the local, state, and national levels to get into the best colleges, they are competing against a large number of kids from other countries that are for the most part sending just their best and brightest
- More colleges are looking at whether students have taken the most rigorous courses available to them in high school
- Small learning communities (SLCs) will not necessarily reduce overcrowding at certain schools
- We need to utilize the local college and professional communities more to advise us
- Redesign certainly reinforces greater inclusion of Special Education students
- Advisory is not the same as home room
- Need to stress the importance of preparation for school and learning at earlier ages
- Need to look at middle schools more because they have been doing many of these redesign things for years and already know what works and does not
- Need to use more student role models and mentors
- Need to involve parents more and get their input

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Additional Discussion on Strategic Plan

- DAC members were invited to remain and continue the discussion on strategic plan implementation.
- Additional discussion points included:
 - Parent education is just as important as parent involvement
 - It helps to see parents at schools, especially during the school day
 - The present culture of “learning isn’t cool” needs to change
 - Schools need to be more accommodating to parents; some schools are better than others at this, as a function of attitudes or facilities or both
 - More schools need to serve as community centers
 - Need to make sure Parent Support Specialists do the job they are supposed to do; some simply are not willing to go the extra mile
 - Central office staff need to get out to campuses more
 - Many offices at AISD are not well versed in holding public meetings and gaining public input
 - Need more transition preparation for students between major grade levels; also more preparation for students exiting the International High School
 - Need to look more at schools with successful programs for parent and community involvement as models

District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Rev. 11/28/06)	2006					2007					
	6/20	8/15	9/19	10/17	11/28	1/16	2/20	3/20	4/17	5/15	6/19
AKINS VERTICAL TEAM											
Christina Dewinne, Parent, Akins HS (1/1)	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓						
<i>Vacancy, Parent*</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
<i>Vacancy, Teacher</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
Travis Mutscher, Teacher, Paredes MS (1/1)		✓	✓	✓	✓						
ANDERSON VERTICAL TEAM											
Stacey Silverman, Parent, Hill ES (2/1*)	✓		✓	✓	✓						
Laura Tuma, Parent, Murchison MS (1/2)		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Dee Willars, Teacher, Anderson HS (2/1)		✓	✓								
Krystall Colhoff, Teacher, Hill ES (1/2)		✓	✓	✓	✓						
AUSTIN VERTICAL TEAM											
Vickie Black, Parent, Matthews ES (4/2*)		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Buddy Owen, Parent, Austin HS (5/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Linda Beavan, Teacher, O. Henry MS (1/2)			✓	✓	✓						
Mark Kelly, Teacher, Small MS (1/1)			✓	✓	✓						
BOWIE VERTICAL TEAM											
Laura Ammer, Parent, Kocurek ES (1/2*)		✓	✓		✓						
Donna Casteel, Parent, Bailey MS (1/1)	✓			✓	✓						
Vicki Everett, Teacher, Bailey MS (2/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Kari Sulak, Teacher, Baranoff ES (1/2)		✓	✓								
CROCKET VERTICAL TEAM											
Mel Fuller, Parent, Cowan ES (1/1)	✓		✓	✓	✓						
Wendy Brown, Parent, Galindo ES (1/2*)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
Linda Johnson, Teacher, Odom ES (2/1)		✓	✓	✓							
Lucille Camarillo-May, Teacher, St. Elmo ES (1/2)			✓								
JOHNSTON VERTICAL TEAM											
Gerald Guerra, Parent, Allan ES (1/2*)		✓									
<i>Vacancy, Parent</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
Joe Moore, Teacher, Martin JH (3/2)		✓	✓		✓						
Melanie Perez, Teacher, Metz ES (1/1)			✓								
LANIER VERTICAL TEAM											
Lourdes Flores, Parent, Wooldridge ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓						
<i>Vacancy, Parent*</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
Isabel Cano, Teacher, Cook ES (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Tammy Phuong, Teacher, McBee ES (1/2)		✓	✓	✓							
LBJ VERTICAL TEAM											
Tamesha Miller, Parent, Sims ES (1/1)											
Frank Gibson, Parent, Harris ES (1/2*)		✓		✓	✓						
Laura Smith-Everet, Teacher, Blanton ES (1/2)			✓		✓						
Jon David Saucedo, Teacher, Sims ES (1/1)	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓						
McCALLUM VERTICAL TEAM											
Varshna Narumanchi-Jackson, Parent, Lee ES (1/2*)		✓		✓							

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	6/20	8/15	9/19	10/17	11/28	1/16	2/20	3/20	4/17	5/15	6/19
Karen Stevens, Parent, Kealing JH (1/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
Pam Gonzalez, Teacher, Highland Park ES (1/2)			✓	✓	✓						
Mary Ghazinezhadiansh, Teacher, McCallum HS (1/1)		✓	✓	✓	✓						
REAGAN VERTICAL TEAM											
Shanntell Colvin, Parent, Norman ES (1/1)				✓	✓						
Audrey Cedillo, Parent, Graham ES (1/1*)											
Martha Dolman, Teacher, ALC (1/1)			✓	✓							
Kathy Ryan, Teacher, Hart ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
TRAVIS VERTICAL TEAM											
Ramon DeJesus, Parent, Travis HS (5/2*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Adolphus Anderson, Parent, Rodriguez ES (2/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Marie Harpin, Teacher, Travis HS (1/1)		✓	✓	✓							
Douglas Rhodenbaugh, Teacher, Fulmore MS (2/2)		✓	✓		✓						
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS											
Pat Butler, Mills ES (2/1)		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Cornel Jones, Norman ES (1/2)											
Janie Ruiz, Gullett ES (2/2)			✓	✓							
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS											
Jane Ross, Pearce MS (4/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Julia Fletcher, Bailey MS (2/1)		✓	✓		✓						
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL											
Edmund Oropez, Lanier HS (1/1)		✓	✓								
ACPTA REPRESENTATIVES											
Pascual Piedfort, South (1/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
<i>Vacancy, North</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES											
Wayne Krause, Texas Civil Rights Project (1/1*)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
Amy Averett, Austin Voices for Education & Youth (2/1*)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE											
Linda Klar, Gilleland Creek Press Association Services (2/1*)		✓		✓	✓						
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE											
Martha Dyess, Secretary, Walnut Creek ES (1/1)*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓						
DISTRICT-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE											
Julie Lyons, Accountability (2/1)	✓		✓		✓						
AT-LARGE MEMBERS											
Alberto Gonzalez, Parent, Fulmore MS (3/1*)	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Dennis Petrash, Parent, Patton ES (1/1*)		✓	✓	✓							
<i>Vacancy*</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (ex officio)											
Johna Edwards		✓	✓	✓	✓						

= Total number of terms appointed/Year of current term

* = Appointed by DAC Executive Committee

Name in Bold = Co-Chair