

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
October 16, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Dr. Brenda Hummel, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Educational Support Services

Mark Billingsley, Director, System-Wide Testing

Charla Merrel, Manager, Career and Technology Education

Dee Carney, Coordinator, Campus and District Accountability

Joey Crumley, Office of Planning & Community Relations

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Carruth Administration Center.

Citizens Communications

There were no citizens communications.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 18, 2007 annual retreat were approved.

TEA Waiver Request: Modified TAKS Testing Schedule

- Mark Billingsley presented a TEA waiver request to allow high school seniors who have completed all TAKS requirements to report to school late on TAKS testing days without incurring absences. He explained that this would free up several additional teachers to help administer TAKS tests. He said that affected students would need to provide their own transportation, and that if any of these students happened to report to school at their regular time they would be given constructive activities to do. He pointed out that the DAC had approved similar waivers in previous years.
- The DAC moved to approve the waiver.

TEA Waiver Request: Modified TAKS Testing Schedule

- Charla Merrel presented a TEA waiver request to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in technology by completing three course credits prior to beginning of grade 12 rather than grade 11. She explained that many student do not begin taking these courses until grade 10. She said that this was the first year for requesting this waiver.
- The DAC moved to approve the waiver.

2008-2009 School Year Calendars

- Dr. Brenda Hummel presented a timeline for development and approval of the 2008-2009 school year calendar, as well as answers to several frequently asked questions.

She said that the Calendar Task Force chose not to cut out any holidays or breaks that have been traditionally provided. She said that the task force developed two draft calendars, the only difference between the two being the scheduling of professional development activities in January 2009. She explained that the two options could differently affect some split-custody families.

- Discussion points included: unevenness of semesters; consideration of split-custody concerns; thoroughness and value of the supporting information; and gaining CAC input prior to coming to the DAC.
- The DAC moved to support Calendar Draft #1, with professional development activities scheduled earlier in January 2009.

2007-2008 District Improvement Plan

- At the request of the chair, Joey Crumley explained the level of DAC input into the DIP. Mr. Crumley explained that when the size of the DAC more than doubled, it was difficult for a much larger group meeting only a few times a year to take a hands-on approach. He said that for the last few years, the DAC had received presentations on the staff-drafted DIP and had been asked to provide any comments or suggestions before going to the Board of Trustees for approval. He said that the subcommittee approach being considered by the DAC could facilitate greater participation in the actual development of the DIP.
- Dee Carney went over highlights of the DIP Needs Assessment and Performance Objectives. She pointed out progress in several areas, but stated that achievement gaps among students groups still existed.
- Discussion points included: differences among districts in Gifted and Talented programs; need to footnote changes in calculation of graduation rates; and problems with setting percentage rather than numeric targets (i.e., if percentages have to add up to one hundred, then any improvement in one student group would have to be countered by a decline in another).

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Forgione went over several new staff appointments, including Associate Superintendents for elementary and middle schools.
- Dr. Forgione reported that the Board had just agreed to piloting annual reports at the elementary, middle, and high school levels based on recommendations of Gibson Consulting Group. He said that the formats and performance indicators used in the reports would be reviewed by the Board for any needed adjustments. He added that the Board would also receive periodic dashboard reports on certain key indicators. He said the Board needed to further discuss the district's overall planning process and timeframe.
- Dr. Forgione reported that the Board had also recently formed a Citizens Bond Advisory Committee to explore possible items for a May 2008 bond election.

- Dr. Forgione said that the exploratory committee on a young men's leadership academy was showing considerable interest in the prospect. He said that creating educational choices was an asset, and that the community had voiced its support of single-gender schools. He said that it might not be until 2010 until the academy came to fruition. He said he was still looking for a compelling model, and he pointed out that no grant money had yet been offered to support the effort.
- Dr. Forgione reported that attendance at Johnston High School was improving but still needed to be much better. He said that several other schools were also having significant attendance problems.

DAC Subcommittee on Assistance to Targeted Campuses

- Joey Crumley reported that the DAC subcommittee recently held its initial meeting and made progress toward identifying certain activities that the DAC could work on immediately and several that would require more of a phased-in implementation. He said that trainings had recently been provided to the Travis and Pearce CACs.
- Mr. Crumley requested that the DAC change its regular meeting in November to be held later in the month at Dobie Middle School to provide an opportunity for that school community to actively interface with the DAC, and the DAC moved approval.

Other Business

- Due to letters from CACs and other input received, the chair agreed to placing a discussion of library funding on the next DAC agenda.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Rev. 10/16/07)	2007						2008					
	6/19	8/21	9/18	10/16	11/20		1/15	2/19	3/18	4/15	5/20	
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES												
Jasmine Thum, LASA	N/A		✓	✓								
Cora Lee, Austin HS	N/A	N/A	N/A									
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (<i>ex officio</i>)												
Johna Edwards, Board Secretary (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓								

/ # = Total number of terms appointed/Year of current term ★ = Co-Chair