

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
January 15, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Debbie Hamerly, Palm Elementary School
Gerard Jimenez, SECAC
Julie Broom, IRRE
Steve Gering, IRRE
Todd Hutner, LBJ High School
Ignacio Ruiz, Bowie High School
Kent Ewing, Office of Redesign
Patti Everitt, Office of Redesign
Trent Sharp, Office of Redesign
Dr. Janis Guerrero, Office of Planning & Community Relations
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

Debbie Hamerly, Librarian, Palm Elementary School, spoke in support of increased library funding. She pointed out that many books in her collection were very outdated. She urged the DAC to consider library resource needs in developing its budget priorities.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 28, 2007 regular meeting were approved.

First Things First: Teacher's Perspective

- Todd Hutner, chemistry and physics teacher, LBJ High School, spoke in regard to his experience with the advocacy component of First Things First (FTF). He said there is at least one adult in the school for each student to feel attached to. He said he had a positive feeling about the program, and he described several student success stories. Discussion points included:
 - This is not that much more work for most teachers
 - An adjustment period may be needed for new teachers; some time management is needed; there is teacher mentoring available
 - Teachers need to know that they are appreciated

- Teachers have ready access to student data and they go over it with the students
- Fortunate to have money available at his school to bring in interesting speakers and presenters to help keep things relevant
- Teachers look at and critique each other's lesson plans, which also helps to ensure relevancy
- An advocacy group of 15 students meets once a week, but students are monitored throughout the week
- There is a 5-year commitment to the program, and it will probably take 4-5 years to reasonably gauge the level of success
- Students have the same advocate throughout their high school experience
- Ideally, children in the same family would also have the same advocate to ensure greater continuity

Budget Subcommittee Report

- Pat Butler, chair of the subcommittee, reported that the group had met during December and January in order to get a head start on the budget process. She said the subcommittee was taking a two-pronged approach: 1) concise and very focused budget priorities for 2008-2008; and 2) improvements to the overall budget process.
- Ms. Butler said the subcommittee was recommending two specific areas for budget priorities, namely increased funding for technology and libraries.
- Jill Stimson of the subcommittee recommended that the district fund libraries at the rate of one book per child at \$20 per book. She cited inequities among campus libraries and many outdated collections, and stated that several Campus Advisory Committees had submitted letters of support for increased library funding. She also referred to extensive literature on the critical importance of libraries to student achievement.
- Discussion points included:
 - Bonds can cover capital items, but not staff
 - Need to look at sustainability of funding
 - Need to clearly articulate these recommended priorities over other pressing district needs, particularly schools facing closure and other accountability sanctions
 - All campuses are not struggling, but all campuses need increased technology and library resources
 - Many campuses have computers that are beyond industry standard for useful life; the current technology allocation for students is not nearly enough to meet the need

First Things First: Update

- Kent Ewing, Executive Director, Office of Redesign, described FTF as structured help for schools in need. He introduced John Gering and Julie Broom of IRRE, serving as FTF consultants.
- Mr. Gering said that the kingpin strategy of FTF is small learning communities (SLCs). He added that a student's choice of SLCs was an important aspect of FTF.

- Mr. Gering said that instructional improvement and academic rigor are necessary, or all you end up with is better relationships. He explained that classroom walk-throughs are used extensively to evaluate performance.
- Mr. Gering concluded by saying that family and student advocacy round out the overall FTF approach, and that all of the FTF components work in synch with each other.
- Ms. Bloom gave a progress report on FTF in AISD schools. She said that teachers, students, and parents have had a lot of input, and the first semester of FTF implementation had just concluded. She said that significant changes had been made in campus relationships, and that the district had provided tremendous supporting infrastructure for FTF.
- Discussion points included:
 - Selection of academies and SLCs is based 100% on choice, no other criteria; first choice selections are actually very high
 - The “sister school” model (i.e., implementing only certain components of FTF) is a choice for some campuses
 - Needs to be greater focus on relevance
 - Students can change their minds about SLCs
 - Extensive communications to students and parents is important to making good decisions
 - FTF work is different for teachers, and may not suit everyone, but teacher losses due to FTF implementation are small
 - FTF has been successfully adapted to middle schools and helps a lot with vertical planning
 - Parents have a big role; there are parent nights and parent fairs; parents need to be partners at every step along the way
 - FTF and AISD are a great fit; AISD’s supporting infrastructure is much more extensive than that of other districts; a separate office for redesign is a strong feature
 - Not all campuses have FTF, but all have advisories
 - A strong point of SLC’s is teachers of common interests working with students of common interests
 - Students tend to fall evenly across various SLCs
 - AISD is actively assessing the extent to which FTF standards are being implemented
 - All certified staff members are trained to be advocates, which helps achieve small advocate-to-student ratios

Superintendent’s Update

- Dr. Forgione said that FTF was having a positive and noticeable effect at LBJ, Travis, and Reagan high schools.
- Dr. Forgione announced that public forums were being held on recommendations of the Citizens Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC). He said both needs and timely opportunities were being considered.
- Dr. Forgione handed out the recommendations of the CBAC and said that adjustments would probably be made after the public forums.

- Dr. Forgione said that relieving overcrowding at Linder Elementary School remained a challenge. He said that getting reliable long-range growth projections could be difficult.
- Dr. Forgione said that the ceiling on any proposed bond package would probably be less than \$300 million, equating to a two-cent tax increase. But he pointed out that district bonds have yielded a good return on taxpayer investments.
- Dr. Forgione pointed out that the CBAC was recommending another elementary school at an undesignated location. He said other bond recommendations included: high school science labs; technology services; campus kitchen and other facility renovations; low-emission school buses; and energy-use efficiency measures.
- Dr. Forgione said that the issue of adding a southeast middle school would probably need to be revisited.
- Dr. Forgione said that a performing arts center remained a challenge, but a citizen had come forward with an offer of cash and land if the district were willing to put up a match.
- Discussion points included:
 - Library funding is probably not a bond-related item since new books are needed every year
 - Increasing campus technology support is also a challenge, and probably not a bond-related item either
 - Akins High School remains crowded; how long does it need to stay on the “watch list” before something is done
 - Using I-35 as an attendance zone boundary could re-raise old segregation concerns
 - The difference between east and west of I-35 is not what it used to be, especially in South Austin
 - The district is closely watching enrollment patterns and projected growth

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Rev. 10/16/07)	2007						2008					
	6/19	8/21	9/18	10/16	11/28		1/15	2/19	3/18	4/15	5/20	
AKINS VERTICAL TEAM												
Christina DeWinne, Parent, Akins HS (1/2)	✓		✓	✓			✓					
<i>Vacancy, Parent</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A					
Maria (Lupe) Ramos, Teacher, Perez ES (1/1)			✓		✓							
Martha Bartz, Teacher, Paredes MS (1/1)	N/A	N/A	N/A									
ANDERSON VERTICAL TEAM												
Stacey Silverman, Parent, Hill ES (2/2)			✓	✓	✓		✓					
Laura Tuma, Parent, Davis ES (2/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Melissa Prepster, Teacher, Murchison MS (1/1)	✓		✓	✓			✓					
Jill Stimson, Librarian, Hill ES (1/1)	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
AUSTIN VERTICAL TEAM												
Vickie Black, Parent, Matthews ES (5/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Buddy Owen, Parent, Austin HS (6/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Jeanne Ann Thompson, Counselor, O.Henry MS (1/1)	✓	✓	✓									
Mark Kelly, Teacher, Small MS (1/2)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
BOWIE VERTICAL TEAM												
Laura Ammer, Parent, Kocurek ES (2/1)												
Donna Casteel, Parent, Bailey MS (1/2)	✓		✓									
Vicki Everett, Teacher, Bailey MS (2/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Marcos Bazan, Teacher, Bowie HS (1/1)	✓	✓	✓		✓							
CROCKET VERTICAL TEAM												
Tammy Henderson, Parent, Cowan ES (1/1)			✓	✓			✓					
Kevin Manzke, Parent, Cunningham ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓		✓							
Linda Johnson, Teacher, Odom ES (2/2)			✓	✓	✓		✓					
Marcie Goltz, Teacher, Boone ES (1/1)	✓		✓		✓		✓					
JOHNSTON VERTICAL TEAM												
Hilda Villalobos-Alvarez, Parent, Ortega ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Joyce Guajardo, Parent, Metz ES (1/1)												
Joe Moore, Teacher, Martin JH (4/1)												
Sarah Robertson, Teacher, Metz ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓				✓					
LANIER VERTICAL TEAM												
Lourdes Flores, Parent, Wooldridge ES (1/2)		✓			✓							
Christine Brister, Parent, Burnet MS (1/1)	✓	✓			✓		✓					
Isabel Cano, Teacher, Cook ES (2/1)	✓				✓		✓					
Patricia Croghan, Teacher, McBee ES (1/1)		✓	✓		✓							
LBJ VERTICAL TEAM												
Betty Johnson, Parent, Pearce MS (1/1)	✓	✓			✓		✓					
LaDonna Massad, Parent, LBJ HS (1/1)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Susan Levett, Teacher, Andrews ES (1/1)	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓					
Jon David Saucedo, Teacher, Sims ES (1/2)	✓			✓	✓							

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McCALLUM VERTICAL TEAM											
Varshna Narumanchi-Jackson, Parent, Lee ES (2/1)		✓	✓	✓							
Kathy Golden, Parent, Lamar MS (1/1)	N/A	N/A	✓		✓		✓				
Pam Gonzalez, Teacher, Highland Park ES (2/1)											
Mary Ghazinezhadiansh, Teacher, McCallum HS (1/2)		✓	✓		✓						
REAGAN VERTICAL TEAM											
Shanntell Colvin, Parent, Norman ES (1/2)					✓		✓				
Veronica Martinez, Parent, Pickle ES (1/1)											
Martha Dolman, Teacher, ALC (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Kathy Ryan, Teacher, Hart ES (1/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
TRAVIS VERTICAL TEAM											
★Ramon DeJesus, Parent, Travis HS (6/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Adolphus Anderson, Parent, Rodriguez ES (3/1)	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Marie Harpin, Teacher, Travis HS (1/2)			✓	✓							
Douglas Rhodenbaugh, Teacher, Fulmore MS (3/1)			✓	✓			✓				
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS											
Pat Butler, Mills ES (2/2)			✓	✓	✓		✓				
Shannon Sellstrom, Dawson ES (1/1)	N/A		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Janie Ruiz, Gullett ES (3/1)			✓	✓	✓		✓				
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS											
★Jane Ross, Pearce MS (4/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Stephanie Childs, Bailey MS (1/1)	✓		✓				✓				
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL											
Edmund Oropez, Lanier HS (1/2)			✓								
ACPTA REPRESENTATIVES											
Pascual Piedfort (1/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Jane Hampton (1/1)	N/A		✓								
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES											
Wayne Krause, Texas Civil Rights Project (1/2)	✓	✓									
Yvonne Meyer, City of Austin (1/1)	✓	✓		✓			✓				
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE											
Linda Klar, Gilleland Creek Press Association Services (2/2)							✓				
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE											
Linda Garcia, Small MS (1/1)											
DISTRICT-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE											
Julie Lyons, Accountability (2/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
AT-LARGE MEMBERS											
Alberto Gonzalez, Parent, Fulmore MS, LBJ HS (3/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓						
Dennis Petrash, Parent, Patton ES (1/2)	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Mollie Guion, Instructional Specialist, Martin JH (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓							

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES												
Jasmine Thum, LASA	N/A		✓	✓	✓							
Cora Lee, Austin HS	N/A	N/A	N/A		✓							
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (ex officio)												
Johna Edwards, Board Secretary (1/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					

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