

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
February 19, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Larry Throm, Chief Financial Officer

Janna Lilly, Special Education

Sallie McCutchen, Special Education

E.J. Romero, Special Education

Dr. Ann Smisko, Curriculum & Instruction

Gerard Jimenez, SECAC

Joey Crumley, Office of Planning & Community Relations

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 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 January 15, 2008 regular meeting were approved.

Update on Special Education

- Janna Lilly, Director of Special Education, introduced two special education teachers from Fulmore Middle School, Sallie McCutchen and E.J. Romero, to give their perspectives on inclusion. Ms. McCutchen and Ms. Romero said that Fulmore has 100 percent inclusion, with scaffolded support provided to special education students in general education classrooms. They said their focus is on special education students building relationships and getting involved. They said their students are succeeding and confident.
- Ms. Lilly said that her long-range vision was one where individuality is honored, strengths are valued, obstacles are opportunities, and equity is an assumption.
- Ms. Lilly said that the special education program includes 8,100 students representing a diversity of disabilities. She explained special education has many aspects, and that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) lays out several academic and social outcomes. She said that special education is not a place, but a service – special education students can be served in many places.
- Ms. Lilly said that her program is aiming at expanded curricula and accessing instruction. She said that special education teachers require expertise in subject and strategies as well as ongoing training in several areas.

- Ms. Lilly explained that the next steps for her program included: identifying best practices; standardizing inclusion practices and procedures; differentiated instruction; co-teaching; enrolled grade level instruction; and accountability for results.
- Discussion points included:
 - Success is linked to the philosophy of campus leadership and to campus climate
 - Referrals have been reduced, and the Associate Superintendents have really weighed in on this issue
 - Trying to expand general education offerings to decrease the need for special education
 - Co-planning time between special education and general education teachers is a challenge
 - Good to see the district responding so actively to concerns about over-representation among certain student groups

Use of 2008-2009 Professional Development Days

- Ann Smisko, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that the calendar days set aside for professional development (PD) had already been approved by the DAC and the Board, and that the DAC was now being asked to approve the actual usage of those days.
- Dr. Smisko pointed out that at least two PD days must be reserved for district-level activities, that middle school improvement planning is a new activity, and that vertical team planning is still included in the schedule.
- Discussion points included:
 - Ensuring sufficient opportunities for meeting with parents is very important
 - More cultural awareness training is needed
 - Concern over district's capacity to put on a New Teacher Academy with fewer PD staff and no director
 - Need to have more measures of effectiveness of PD and to see actual results
 - Allow campuses flexibility in scheduling full days and half days of PD and planning and preparation
- The DAC moved to approve the use of 2008-2009 professional development days as proposed.

2008-2009 Budget Development Process

- Larry Throm, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the district was still working with \$260 million of the 2004 bond initiative. He said that just last night the Board had approved a new \$340 million bond package, and would be seeking to place it on the May election.
- Mr. Throm said that the district was planning for continued growth. He said the district now had over 82,000 students and 11,500 employees and represented a very large operation, serving thousands of lunches and breakfasts and running hundreds of bus routes every day.
- Mr. Throm said that the district had been recognized for financial excellence, and had achieved an AA bond rating. He said that the district was in good financial shape, and that the Board had provided good stewardship of the district's resources.

- Mr. Throm explained that the Board had already approved the 2008-2009 budget calendar, budget assumptions, and staffing formulas. He said the staffing formulas need to be in place early to authorize recruitment of the best applicants for employment with the district.
- Mr. Throm explained that about 85 percent of the budget (or \$800 million) was required to cover staff expenses. After other significant budgetary needs – such as transportation, food, and utilities – there was only a relatively small amount of discretionary funding available each year.
- Mr. Throm pointed out that property values do not have a great effect on the budget, but they do on bonds. He said the state has certain limits on school tax rates. He said that the district was considering going higher than the current \$1.04 tax rate, but this would require an election. He explained that \$1.17 was as high as the district could go under current state law. He pointed out that recent elections to raise school tax rates in San Antonio and San Marcos had failed.
- Mr. Throm said that district administration had identified several needs at this time with budgetary implications, including: salary increases; covering employee health benefits; Project ADVANCE; additional contracted work days for high school counselors; staffing the new southwest middle school; libraries; and cost increases in fuel and utilities.
- Discussion points included:
 - The determination of per-pupil non-staff funding allocations
 - Waiting to consider another two-year agreement with Education Austin until the next biennium
 - The number of athletic trainers is determined by UIL participation, not total enrollment
 - The DAC should provide input to the Board before the Board determines its budget priorities
 - Weighting student-based allocations is an option, but there is no clear evidence that this provides better results

DAC Budget Priorities for 2008-2009

- Pat Butler said that the DAC Budget Subcommittee was still recommending two specific priorities – technology and libraries – and one general recommendation to review the district’s overall budget process. She said the DAC’s budget priorities could be presented to both the Budget Task Force and the Board. She added that the statement of priorities could have a preamble acknowledging that other very important needs existed.
- Ms. Butler said that bonds cannot pay for technology personnel, and she said that this could be clarified in the statement of priorities. She said that the subcommittee did hear comments from technology and library representatives.
- Buddy Owen, also a member of the subcommittee, said that the budget process needed to be reviewed particularly in regard to providing more meaningful input at strategic points in the process. He said that the budget needs to be reviewed at the policy level, and felt that what he was hearing from the discussion was supportive of his recommendation.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Forgione was unable to attend the meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 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>												
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	✓		✓		✓					
Vacancy												
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												
Vacancy												
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