

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
June 17, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Sheila Anderson, AISD

Joey Crumley, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Dr. Pat Forgione, AISD, Superintendent

Dr. Janis Guerrero, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Brenda Hester, AISD, Secondary Education Operations

David Lussier, AISD, Special Assistant to the Superintendent

Dr. Nancy Phillips, AISD, State and Federal Accountability

Joann Taylor, AISD

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Carruth Administration Center.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 20, 2008 regular meeting were approved.

Citizens Communications

There were no citizens communications.

Departing CAC Members

- Dr. Jane Ross acknowledged the service of several departing DAC members, including Johna Edwards, Christine Brister, Mark Kelly, and Pat Butler.
- On behalf of the DAC, Johna Edwards was given a special token of appreciation for her service as Board representative.

2008-2009 Title I Allocations

- Dr. Nancy Phillips, Director of State and Federal Accountability, presented proposed Title I allocations to campuses for 2008-2009. She said the allocations were based on the percentage of students at each campus participating in the free/reduced lunch program.
- Dr. Phillips explained that the majority (70%) of the total \$21 million entitlement must go directly to campuses; 30% of the funding would be for various central support services. She said that 69 campuses would be receiving Title I funding, ranging from about \$10,000 to over \$400,000.
- Dr. Phillips clarified that the Board actually approved the funding allocations, and that the DAC was being asked to provide a recommendation to the Board.

- The DAC moved to recommend that the Board approve the 2008-2009 Title I allocations as proposed.

Update on Middle Level Education Plan

- Debra Hester, Director of Secondary Education Operations, provided an update on the Middle Level Education Plan process. She reported that since the DAC had hosted one of the community conversations a few months ago, the process had reached the action plan phase.
- Ms. Hester explained that the beliefs, mission, parameters, objectives, and strategies developed by the Middle Level Education Task Force, and presented to the DAC, had recently been approved by the Board.
- Ms. Hester said eight Action Teams had recently completed 54 separate action plans, which were reviewed carefully by the task force. She said the task force identified those action plans that were most appropriate for year one of implementation, with other actions plans to be phased in. She said a draft of year one implementation was recently provided to the Board, showing expected results and estimated costs.
- Discussion points included:
 - A middle school equivalent of Garza High School was being considered
 - There needs to be connectivity at the vertical team level
 - All of the strategies help support schools that are struggling
 - The Action Teams included counselors
 - It would be helpful to get progress reports on implementation

Update on Strategic Compensation

- David Lussier, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, provided an update on the Strategic Compensation initiative. He said the initiative covered three main areas: student growth; professional growth; and highest-needs schools.
- Mr. Lussier explained that nine schools were currently involved in a pilot program, with most of these schools being highest-needs schools. He said highest-needs schools were more likely to have fewer experienced teachers and higher attrition rates.
- Mr. Lussier said the program was looking at TAKS growth as an important indicator. Even though schools may not be meeting all of the accountability standards, they still may be experiencing significant growth in many areas.
- Mr. Lussier explained that only teachers and principals – not assistant principals or other professional staff – were being included in the pilot at this time. He also explained that highest-needs schools were defined by the percentages of economically disadvantaged, English Language Learner, and special needs students.
- Mr. Lussier said the majority of affected staff in all nine pilot schools voted to participate in the pilot program. He said two more schools were being added to the pilot, but some schools had actually declined to participate.
- Mr. Lussier said detailed guidelines had been developed on student learning objectives (SLOs) and teacher assessments. He said examples of performance indicators had also been developed.
- Mr. Lussier said a monitoring process for the program had been developed by an independent entity in the form of a scorecard to be made available to the public.
- Discussion points included:

- Reciprocal accountability is needed (i.e., the community has responsibility to ensure teachers have the resources and supports they need)
- AISD does not provide enough extra pay for longevity
- The pilot schools are representative of the district as a whole in terms of demographics and attrition rates, and they provide a geographic balance
- Expanding the pilot program would equate to additional money
- The highest-needs schools in the pilot are not all the top ones in the district, but they are all in the top one-third
- SLOs are two per teacher; one must be for all students, and the other can either be for all students or more targeted
- Growth over time is measured through special assessments
- Strategic compensation seems to be a better approach than TEEG

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Forgione announced that Dr. Darlene Westbrook, Chief Academic Officer, had been on health-related leave for some time and would be retiring. He said he would soon be providing a replacement strategy.
- Dr. Forgione said that Johnston High School as we have known it is gone, but we are moving forward. He said there would probably be two new high schools at that location eventually, and with clean slates under the state accountability system. He said although the state required a large number of existing teachers to be replaced, he would try to retain non-academic course leaders, such as automotive and bakery. He also said that there would be district-wide recruitment effort for new students.
- Dr. Forgione distributed information on a special case study prepared by Dr. Larry Cuban, covering AISD from 1954 to the present. He said that this study would probably become part of the literature on school reform.
- Dr. Forgione said that although the district was continuing to make overall gains in performance, we need to look more closely into our writing program.

Other Business

- Dr. Jane Ross was affirmed by the DAC as co-chair for another two-year term.
- Joey Crumley provided ballots for DAC members to elect Executive Committee members for 2008-2009. He said he would announce the results via email.
- Ramon DeJesus and Andy Anderson, who served on the Budget Task Force, said that the group had concluded its work and that the Superintendent had just provided his budget recommendations to the Board. Mr. DeJesus commented that the playing field has changed, and that any tax-rate increase would need to be thoroughly explained to the community.
- Vickie Black suggested that additional subcommittees might be helpful for the DAC to have more in-depth discussions. Mr. DeJesus said the Executive Committee could look into this, but it would require a greater time commitment for DAC members.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

| District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Rev. 06/16/08) | 2008 | | | | | | 2009 | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|-------|-------|--|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| | 6/17 | 8/19 | 9/23 | 10/21 | 11/18 | | 1/20 | 2/17 | 3/24 | 4/21 | 5/19 | |
| STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vacancy</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vacancy</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (<i>ex officio</i>) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Vacancy</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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