

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

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Joey Crumley, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Dr. Pat Forgione, AISD, Superintendent

Dr. Janis Guerrero, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Christy Rome, AISD, Intergovernmental Relations

Dr. Anne Ware, AISD, Accountability

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Carruth Administration Center.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 17, 2008 regular meeting were approved.

Citizens Communications

There were no citizens communications.

Overview of State Accountability Ratings

- Dr. Anne Ware, Executive Director, Office of Accountability, presented the 2008 state accountability ratings for the district and campuses. She reported that the district was rated Academically Acceptable, with 15 schools rated Exemplary, 19 Recognized, 68 Academically Acceptable, and 11 Academically Unacceptable.
- Dr. Ware stated that passing standards in some areas had increased, and would be increasing again. She explained that certain exceptions to meeting the standards could be allowed if sufficient improvement had been shown.
- Dr. Ware said that she would be providing the Board with comparisons with the state as a whole and several other school districts on September 8.
- Discussion points included:
 - Achievement gaps are closing a bit slower in AISD compared to the state as a whole
 - LEP data is still being analyzed
 - It would be good to hear from Curriculum to see how the district will respond to these results
 - Earth science has been identified as an area for specific improvement
 - The state as a whole is probably not the best comparison for AISD – for that matter, neither are the “Big 8” districts that have been used for comparison over the last several years

Waiver to Exempt Principals from Texas Principals Excellence Program

- Dr. Ware presented a TEA waiver request to exempt three AISD principals from accountability requirements for professional development. She said that the waiver would allow these three principals, all with considerable expertise in improving low-performing schools, to remain on their campuses where they are needed most.
- Discussion points included:
 - It would make better sense to have this type of professional development during the summer
 - Consider sending a formal message to TEA about concerns
 - This item was added at the last minute, and it is difficult to provide input without having sufficient time to consider the matter
- The DAC moved to support the waiver request, with two members opposed.

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Forgione said the district must do a better job in reducing the number of Academically Unacceptable campuses.
- Dr. Forgione announced that Claudia Tousek would be serving as interim Chief Academic Officer, and that newly appointed Executive Principals were now in place.
- Dr. Forgione reported that an additional goal had been placed in all Campus Improvement Plans specifically addressing closing achievement gaps.
- Dr. Forgione said that new teacher training would be providing guidance in a number of areas, including Principles of Learning, PBS, Curriculum, IPGs, and new teacher mentoring.
- Dr. Forgione issued an invitation to DAC members to attend a special presentation on Dr. Larry Cuban's longitudinal study of AISD.
- Dr. Forgione explained that the district was receiving no new revenues due to recapture. He said that the district may be asking voters to approve a tax-rate increase in November.
- Dr. Forgione identified several critical questions for 2008-2009, including a pay raise for employees, continued 100 percent health coverage for employees, and maintaining an adequate fund balance.
- Dr. Forgione said he would be looking for various ways to cut back on expenditures starting in October.
- Discussion points included:
 - What is the district doing to influence the State Legislature?
 - Can the district continue to pay for employee Social Security?
 - It would be good to have a gap analysis for each campus

Overview of Safety Check

- Christy Rome, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, explained that several other school districts were using an automated check for registered sex offenders. She said that the system also prints visitor ID badges. She added that the system could also be used to alert for parental custody restrictions and criminal trespass orders.
- Ms. Rome said that the system had been successfully piloted at certain AISD schools. She added that the district had made considerable efforts to address possible concerns of the immigrant community.

- Ms. Rome said that protocols and procedures had been established that were as user-friendly as possible.
- Ms. Rome explained that a driver's license or other government-issued ID would be checked against a national database of registered sex offenders. She said that district-issued IDs could also be obtained.
- Discussion points included:
 - So far, the number of people identified has been small
 - The system will be rolled out at all secondary campuses in September and October – the system is optional for elementary campuses at this time
 - Would like to know the exact costs to the district
 - Concern that this will take a lot of time away from campus office staff

Overview of DAC Annual Retreat

- Joey Crumley, DAC Coordinator, announced that the annual DAC retreat would be on September 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Norris Conference Center.
- Mr. Crumley said that main goals for this year's retreat were for members to get to know each other better, and to establish priorities and an action plan for the coming year.

Reports from Other District Committees

- Brief reports were provided by Andy Anderson and Ramon DeJesus on the work of task forces related to budget and dual language.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Rev. 08/21/08)	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>To Be Determined</i>												

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