

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Annual Retreat
September 16, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Others in Attendance

Christine Brister, AISD, Board of Trustees

Joey Crumley, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Dr. Pat Forgione, AISD, Superintendent

Dr. Janis Guerrero, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Nancy Noeske, ProAct Search, Inc.

Maria-Elena Ramon, AISD, Planning & Community Relations

Milan Sevak, AISD, Office of the Superintendent

Karen Sperry, AISD, Office of the Superintendent

Vincent Torres, AISD, Board of Trustees

Mark Williams, AISD, Board of Trustees

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order

Jane Ross called the retreat to order at 8:55 a.m. at the Norris Conference Center. Ramon DeJesus stated that the goals of the day were to: provide time to get to know each other better; set DAC strategic priorities and key subcommittee work items for 2008-2009; encourage members to serve on at least one subcommittee; and provide input on the new Superintendent search.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 19, 2008 regular meeting were approved.

Get to Know You Session

- Joey Crumley asked members to provide the following information about themselves: their vertical team; their children and their schools; the type of work they do; any other campus, district, or community service; an interesting thing that people may not know about them; the biggest asset they bring to the table; and what they think is the most pressing district need or issue.
- Members commented that they enjoyed this session and found it very informing.

Recognitions

- Joey Crumley and Janis Guerrero presented framed certificates of distinguished service signed by the Board President and Superintendent to the following six members who had served three or more two-year terms on the DAC, totaling 50 years of combined service: Alberto Gonzalez; Vickie Black; Pascual Piedfort; Jane Ross; Buddy Owen; and Ramon DeJesus.

Breakout Sessions

- Members broke out into three groups, each discussing strategic priorities and key subcommittee work items for 2008-2009. To facilitate discussion, members considered a summary of the previous year's activities, and the notes they took during the get to know you session on what each member thought was the most pressing district need or issue. Members were asked to narrow down to a small number of strategic priorities and subcommittee work items.

Keynote Addresses

- Dr. Forgione thanked the DAC members for all of their hard work and said that he had valued their input during his ten years as Superintendent. He spoke to the challenges ahead, including budget and academically unacceptable schools.
- Mark Williams described the search process for the new Superintendent, including a series of community forums. He said the Board of Trustees looked forward to receiving input from the DAC and other community members.

Reports from Breakout Groups

- A member of each of the three breakout groups provided highlights of their discussions, which are attached.

Input on New Superintendent Search

- Nancy Noeske of ProAct Search, Inc. facilitated a discussion on the new Superintendent search. She specifically asked for DAC input on: the district's greatest strengths; concerns about the district; and characteristics the next Superintendent should possess.
- Ms. Noeske said a summary of the DAC input would be included with other community input on the district website.
- DAC members were also asked to complete a survey, which is also online, regarding the new Superintendent search.

Adjourn

Jane Ross thanked members for a productive retreat, and adjourned the retreat at 3:45 p.m. Executive Committee members were asked to remain to discuss plans for a special meeting.

Notes from Breakout Group 1

REVIEW OF LAST YEAR

Plus	Δ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hearing from principals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Principals and participants restrained by agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Were ideas and plans implemented? (lack of opportunity for follow-up on ideas and plans)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good job of establishing foundation for supporting struggling campuses 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Being present at CACs displays interest/care on part of DAC; at Mendez meeting, lots of parents and perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priorities were set but not referenced often enough; lack of progress on monitoring priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Library and technology funding resulting from DAC input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are mandated considerations for DAC?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactive (vs. reactive) through committee work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need opportunity for advance preparation; need to place emphasis on advisory
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DAC meeting agendas need ample opportunity for discussion of advisory items and for members to gain full understanding of initiatives/issue; need clarification about purpose of items on agenda (is this for information, advisory consideration, etc.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On mandatory items, DAC members need the understanding that negative votes don't stop process; however, can we record individual votes?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On agenda, where are we in process with this item?

Notes from Breakout Group 2

STUDENT ACHEIVEMENT

Create a mechanism for the sharing of success/excellence:

High Expectations

- High expectations for ALL, not just those with need for improvement based on state scores

Expectations for Excellence

- Inter-campus awareness
- Authentically listen to teachers

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Flyers in Spanish
- Website translated in Spanish
- Integrate SECAC members (Special Education families)
- Require parent involvement

BUDGET

- Resources follow student
- Funding for technology, but no funding for teacher support/instruction
- Funding for adult education (link to parental involvement)

WHAT WENT WELL

- DAC budget priorities
- Involvement with struggling campuses
- Intent to support

WHAT DIDN'T GO WELL

- Tackling too many things (spread too thin)

WHAT SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO DO

- Stay involved w/struggling campuses
- Budget Sub Committee
- Connectivity (follow through)
- Receive updated (continual)
On initiatives (First Things First) (Redesign)

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE DIFFERENTLY

- Meet with out vertical teams to focus
- DAC members attend at least 1 CAC meeting as a support
- Budget Committee start earlier
- More info on voting items ahead of time

Notes from Breakout Group 3

STUDENT ACHEIVEMENT

- What does it look like ... how is it defined?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Early childhood
- Leadership

TEACHER RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

- All staff

BUDGET

- AU Schools and struggling campuses
- Accountability for all above

KEY POINTS

- How will we sustain grant-funded initiatives when the money runs out?
- How do we know we are getting a return on our investment?
- DAC needs education, training, etc. in order to make recommendations for accountability/monitoring of District initiatives
- Better communication for DAC members (wiki, webpage, blogs, etc.)
- We need a process for prioritizing

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Long Term:

Develop a campus “scorecard” that involves mechanisms and systems for evaluating how all significant needs (student involvement, teacher retention, etc.) are being met.

Short Term:

Revisit an existing scorecard system that was previously developed and come up with a viable process for determining accountability so that the DAC can serve as an advisory council.

District Advisory Council Member List and Attendance (Rev. 09/25/08)	2008					2009				
	6/17	8/19	9/16	10/21	11/18	1/20	2/17	3/24	4/21	5/19
McCALLUM VERTICAL TEAM										
Varshna Narumanchi-Jackson, Parent, Lee ES (2/2)		✓	✓							
Kathy Golden, Parent, McCallum MS (1/2)	✓		✓							
Frederick Bentley, Kealing MS (1/1)		✓	✓							
Mary Ghazinezhadiansh, Teacher, McCallum HS (2/1)		✓	✓							
REAGAN VERTICAL TEAM										
Bernice Herrera, Parent, Graham ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Anthony Mitchell, Walnut Creek ES (1/1)	✓	✓								
Martha Dolman, Teacher, ALC (2/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Kathy Ryan, Teacher, Hart ES (2/1)	✓	✓	✓							
TRAVIS VERTICAL TEAM										
★Ramon DeJesus, Parent, Travis HS (6/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Adolphus Anderson, Parent, Rodriguez ES (3/2)	✓	✓	✓							
Carla Lantz, Teacher, Mendez MS (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Douglas Rhodenbaugh, Teacher, Fulmore MS (3/2)			✓							
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS										
Linda Purvis, Baranoff ES (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Shannon Sellstrom, Dawson ES (1/2)	✓		✓							
Janie Ruiz, Gullett ES (3/2)		✓	✓							
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS										
Sherry Lepine, Small MS (1/1)	✓		✓							
Stephanie Childs, Bailey MS (1/2)										
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL										
Julieanne Arreola, Akins HS (1/1)	✓		✓							
ACPTA REPRESENTATIVES										
Pascual Piedfort (5/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Lisa Chromcak (1/1)										
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES										
Wayne Krause, Texas Civil Rights Project (2/1)		✓								
Yvonne Meyer, City of Austin (1/2)	✓									
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE										
Linda Klar, Klar Communications (3/1)		✓								
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE										
Earlynn Williams, Student Services (1/1)	✓	✓	✓							
DISTRICT-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE										
★Jane Ross, PBS Specialist (5/1)	✓	✓	✓							
AT-LARGE MEMBERS										
Alberto Gonzalez, Parent, LASA (4/1)	✓	✓	✓							
Dennis Petrash, Parent, Patton ES (2/1)	✓									
Mollie Guion, Instructional Specialist, Martin JH (2/1)	✓	✓	✓							

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES												
Mallory Catherine Bayer, LASA (1/1)			✓									
Grant McClure, McCallum (1/1)			✓									
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVE (ex officio)												
<i>To Be Determined</i>												

/ # = Total number of terms appointed/Year of current term

★ = Co-Chair

Bold = Executive Committee Member