

**Citizens Budget Review Committee
Summary of May 28, 2009 Meeting
6:15 – 9:00pm**

12 of 17 members were in attendance.

Discussion of New Budget Development Process

Steve West, Interim Chief Financial Officer, briefly reviewed the 2005-10 Strategic Plan. Milan Sevak, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, also discussed the processes for developing the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) and District Improvement Plan.

CBRC members variously noted that resources, such as Title I funding, gets unbalanced because resources get allocated to campuses not students. Additionally, it was commented that there is tension between who gets to decide the allocation of resources as it appear very top-down when a school receives the state accountability classification of Academically Unacceptable.

It was noted that while the District does have a Strategic Plan, there is not a process for analyzing strategies. One noted that the district needs to identify best practices and cost. Another member noted that the District’s overarching strategy is not transparent. Another member noted that a lot of money is being spent without looking at data.

On chart paper, the following was summarized through discussion be one of the CBRC Co-Chairs:

<u>Key Issues</u>	<u>Action Items</u>
Transparency Clear priorities (simplify performance measures) Capture critical info (e.g., principal turnover) Clear management objectives Motivating factors Student engagement, retention, progress Levels at which AISD plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District (support campuses) • Campus-wide range of needs – can’t be addressed in the aggregate for all priorities (no one size fits all) 	Meaningful, operational strategic plan based on consensus (Board, admin, staff, community) Sustainability of strategic plan – continuity (not personality dependent – shared visions) Tie budget to strategic plan – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy analysis process to set priorities? Determine costs? • How does the district avoid conflict in planning/setting priorities? Match resources and strategies with appropriate flexibility

A member highlighted that an effective example of responding to data was at Reagan high school with respect to algebra in the second semester. After some discussion, staff was asked to write this example as a potential model for replication (perhaps creating a template). Questions to frame the summary include:

What was the objective? What was the strategy? How was data used to inform change? What was data used to review the success/failure of intervention/initiative?

A member noted that the District needs to look at best practices as well as the worst practices (so we know to stop doing those).

Sequencing Decisions

Steve West began a discussion about the timeline of the budget development process and its alignment with the development of the CIPs by campuses.

The following was summarized on chart paper:

Budget Planning Cycle

Start as early as possible (Sept)

Jan: roll forms out to campuses

- staffing
- campus funding
- program options

Budget/CIP from campus by March 31

Strategic Plan → Budget Initiatives → Options for evaluation

CBRC members requested that Steve West put together a draft process timeline for review by the CBRC at a future meeting.

Requests for District staff from CBRC:

- Reagan algebra budget/priority template
- Schedule for budget process
- Summary of key issues and guiding principles and public expectations