

AISD DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Summary of Regular Meeting
December 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Member Attendance

(See attached list)

Staff/Trustees in Attendance

Erin Bown-Anderson, Academics
Dr. Elizabeth Casas, Chief Academic Office
Christian Clarke Casarez, Special Asst. to Chief Business Officer
Joey Crumley, Innovation and Development
Katy Escandell, Dyslexia/504
Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, Superintendent
Dr. Akweta Hickman, Special Education
Jennifer Limon, Special Education
Melinda Lipani, Innovation and Development
Dr. Anthony Mays, Chief Schools Officer
Dr. Jacob Reach, Chief Officer, Governmental Relations and Board Services
Diana Saenz, Webb Middle School
Lindsey Stuart, Innovation and Development
Larry Throm, Chief Business Officer
Tyler Vanhook, Innovation and Development
Michelle Wallis, Innovation and Development

Visitors in Attendance

None

PROCEEDINGS

Preliminaries

- The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Dr. Jane Ross at 4:31 p.m.
- There were no public comments.
- New chief officers of the district introduced themselves, including: Larry Throm, Elizabeth Casas, Dr. Anthony Mays, and Dr. Jacob Reach. In addition, each chief officer cited specific opportunities and challenges in their new positions.

Superintendent's Update

- Dr. Elizalde went over the following points:
 - ☞ Latest COVID data.
 - ☞ Quarantine guidance changes.
 - ☞ Status of accommodations.
 - ☞ Post-holiday precautions.
 - ☞ Stage 5 implications.
 - ☞ Preliminary results of current survey.
 - ☞ TEA announcement related to STAAR tests and ratings.
 - ☞ Pilot schools looking into possible alternative accommodations.
- Questions and comments included:
 - Question: Are we looking into TEA teach appraisal waivers and alternative staffing models?

Response: We will be working on the waivers, and we will continue to explore options for teaching and learning.

Question: Could we somehow consolidate teaching and learning to give teachers some relief?

Response: We have to look at so many needs, our options are often limited. And, we can't appear to influence parents not to exercise their right to send their kids to school.

Special Education Overview

- On hand to present was Dr. Akweta Clemmer Hickman, who went over the following points:
 - ☞ December second was Special Education Day, commemorating IDEA.
 - ☞ Section 504 of IDEA provides for educational accommodations.
 - ☞ IDEA ensures free and appropriate public education (FAPE).
 - ☞ Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committees develop individual education plans (IEPs).
 - ☞ There are various types of disabilities covered by special education.
 - ☞ ARDs are multidisciplinary teams
 - ☞ Every student must have an annual goal, backed by an implementation plan.
 - ☞ A general education environment is always the first consideration.
 - ☞ In AISD, 13% of the student population is in special education.
 - ☞ Intellectual disabilities are different from learning disabilities, and really shouldn't be lumped together.
 - ☞ Summary of AISD range of services, mission, core beliefs, and priorities.
 - ☞ Responsibilities of the district and parents.
 - ☞ Successes include improved communications, enhanced professional development, and staffing.
 - ☞ Critical issues (in Texas and across the country) include teacher attrition/retention, school psychologists, speech pathologists, and funding.
 - ☞ Cyclical monitoring of districts by TEA, including implementation, student outcomes, and stakeholder engagement.
 - ☞ Through Results Driven Accountability (RDA), TEA assesses any disproportionality in student groups.
 - ☞ We are addressing all student needs during the pandemic.
- Questions and comments included:
 - Comment: There needs to be more special education program information online for parents, and more on blueprints for instruction.
 - Response: Information is available for teachers to customize instruction.
 - Comment: We should share best practices between campuses, and provide supports for instructional coaches as well as new teachers.
 - Question: Is there any training or information that is required?
 - Response: There is no mandatory training, but we have a lot of information available to teachers.
 - Question: During the pandemic, how are special education kids progressing compared to general education kids?
 - Response: We don't have such a district assessment at this time, although certain schools could be looking at this.

Adjournment and Breakout Group Discussions

- Dr. Ross thanked everyone for their participation and courtesy, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

DAC MEMBER ATTENDANCE

| Name | Category | Vertical Team | School | Present |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| Trudy Richards | Parent | Akins | Akins | Yes |
| Joel Bergh | Parent | Akins | Baranoff | Yes |
| Maria Sebastian | Teacher | Akins | Perez | Yes |
| Krish Stella | Librarian | Akins | Blazier | Yes |
| Ryan Hazlett | Parent | Anderson | Murchison | No |
| Jessica Sanchez | Parent | Anderson | Pillow | Yes |
| Christy Cochran | Librarian | Anderson | Murchison | Yes |
| Thuy Nguyen | Teacher | Anderson | Summitt | Yes |
| Barbara Knaggs | Parent | Austin | O.Henry | Yes |
| Vera Muñiz | Parent | Austin | Zilker | Yes |
| Richard Kelly | Parent | Austin | Austin | Yes |
| Alyssa Potasznik | Teacher | Austin | Austin | Yes |
| Matt Heisterman | Teacher | Bowie | Kiker | Yes |
| Emmaleigh Toto | Teacher | Bowie | Gorzycki | No |
| Zoe Trieff | Parent | Crockett | Sunset Valley | Yes |
| Kristel Nichols | Teacher | Crockett | St. Elmo | No |
| Ruth Tovar | Parent | Eastside Memorial | Brooke | Yes |
| Emma Mancha-Summers | Parent | Eastside Memorial | Sanchez | Yes |
| Roland Hutson | Teacher | Eastside Memorial | Allison | Yes |
| Nancy Adames | Parent | Navarro | Navarro | No |
| Isa Boonto-Zarifis | Teacher | Navarro | Lanier | Yes |
| Griselda Pena | Teacher | Navarro | Burnet | No |
| Reedy Spigner III | Parent | LBJ | Norman-Sims | No |
| Blanca Galvez-Perez | Teacher | LBJ | Andrews | Yes |
| Holly Eaton | Parent | McCallum | McCallum | Yes |
| Lisa Flores | Parent | McCallum | Lee | Yes |
| Maya McElroy | Librarian | Northeast | Graham | Yes |
| Claudia Torres | Teacher | Northeast | Webb | No |
| Cesar Benavides | Parent | Travis | Travis Heights | Yes |
| Katye Howell | Teacher | Travis | Travis | Yes |
| Marcy Morgan | Teacher | Travis | Dawson | Yes |
| Sylvia Bell | Parent | Special Campuses | Richards | No |
| Julia Parker | Teacher | Special Campuses | ALC | Yes |
| Jennifer Pace | Principal | Not Applicable | Widen | Excused |
| Jess De La Huerta | Princioal | Not Applicable | Dobie | Yes |
| Dr. Susan Thames | Assistant Principal | Not Applicable | Akins | No |
| Laurie Solis | ACPTA | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Nina Wilson | ACPTA | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Jimmy Counihan | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Dr. Katherine Fugate | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Sondra Marks | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Cathy McHorse | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Heather Shaw | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Stacey Thompson | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Genevieve Dell | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Dr. Deanna Mercer | Community | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Shannon Gleason | Business | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Billy Pringle | Business | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Kathy Winfrey | Classified Employee | Not Applicable | Winn | Yes |
| Laurie Beaman | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |

| Name | Category | Vertical Team | School | Present |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alonzo Blankenship | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Dr. Jane Ross | District-Level Employee | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Andy Anderson | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Vickie Black | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| LaDonna Massad | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No |
| Paul Mitchell | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Toni Rayner | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Excused |
| Michael Supancic | At-Large | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Yes |
| Paridhi Latawa | Student | Special | LASA | No |