

Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Campus Advisory Council

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held December 6, 2017

In attendance:

Members: Ann Phipps, Melanie Plowman, Ana Irizarry, Ken Pfluger, Will Andrews, Jason Flowers, Amy Moore, Karen Carlander, Lynn Boswell, Stacia Crescenzi, Ence Morse, Sandi Woodrow, Kathleen Schneeman, Karen Foree, Adriana Lacera, Mary Crisler, Gabriela Vasquez, Vanessa Mokry

Guests: Annie Franklin, Sondra Marks, Joanna Ma, Rachel Pierron, Lisa Moomaw

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Co-chair Amy Moore at 4:05 pm.

Citizen Communications:

None.

Training:

Co-chair Amy Moore highlighted policies regarding open meetings, visitor guidelines, and citizens' communications; printed materials were available for reference.

Approval of October minutes:

Minutes were approved with minor changes. Motion Boswell, second Irizarry.

Results of Schedule Synching:

Co-chair Plowman led a discussion regarding the results of the synching of LBJ and LASA bell schedules beginning this fall. It had been anticipated that the synching of the schedules would lead to increased interaction between LBJ and LASA students, both informally and in club participation. Principal Crescenzi had not seen notable increase in interaction, but pointed out that her information was preliminary. Morse reported that she had anticipated more interaction than she has experienced, but that the Pride Alliance coordination has increased.

Crescenzi stated that classes with shared students, such as band, are running much more smoothly than under the previous schedule.

Arrival/Departure Traffic Status/Update:

Plowman reported that an adjustment was made to signal timing of the light at Springdale Road and Pecan Brook. There was discussion of the logistics of dropoff and pickup at Magnolia Montessori. Boswell pointed out that many of our student drivers are inexperienced. Plowman will check back with the City and reach out to Magnolia about how to make the situation safer for all.

Future Growth of LASA, Culture, and Role of AP Tests

Crescenzi noted that there are only two AP tests that are not offered regularly, so, although more students may take AP tests, there are none to add to the mix.

Crescenzi expects that growth in LASA enrollment will happen organically, and does not want to set a goal for number of students. The increase in enrollment two years ago was due to an increase in applications. Staff conversations have led to an ideal enrollment of 1600, which appears to be in excess of the number of students that the Johnston campus can realistically accommodate.

Phipps introduced a discussion of AP tests, the curriculum of the AP classes, and the limitations of that curriculum, with the idea that LASA students are capable of more and find many of the AP classes unrewarding. Crescenzi cautioned about what gets put on student transcripts; Flowers stated that the history curriculum is already designed to prepare students for the AP test or for undergraduate work. Crescenzi stated that the AP curriculum tends to be most rigid in the hard sciences.

Principal's Report:

Crescenzi discussed recent student deaths and the means of communicating the news to students. She encouraged attendance at the Wellness event scheduled for Monday, December 11, in the Library. She pointed out that the entire district had six student deaths all last year, and has had nine so far this year.

Crescenzi discussed applications, and noted that the LASA application must be completed alongside the District Common App.

Crescenzi discussed the expected deployment of Chrome books for LASA students, and the uncertainty of the date of deployment due to issues with the supplier.

With regard to the Bond, Plowman noted that an architect has been hired for the new construction for East Side at the old Anderson campus.

Crescenzi discussed the \$4 million allotment for LASA's move, but is working to get definition on what that money is intended to be used for. She needs to see the Johnston campus to evaluate its spaces for LASA classes.

Phipps noted the next bond meeting will be on December 12, with monthly meetings thereafter to plan the move. Booster clubs need to make sure LBJ parents are involved in their activities. Plowman stated the need to develop good relations with Johnston neighbors.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned by Moore at 5:15 pm.