

Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Campus Advisory Council

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held October 4, 2017

In attendance:

Members: Ann Phipps, Tracie Gardner, Melanie Plowman, Ana Irizarry, Joanna Ma, Gabriela Vasquez, Ken Pfluger, Will Andrews, Sophia Blaha, Kathleen Schneeman, Mary Crisler, Ence Morse, Jason Flowers, Amy Moore

Guests: Lori Wallace, Nirali Devgan, Connor Fierro, Mark Grayson, Anaya Mehta, Aaron Booe

Call to Order:

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

Citizen Communications:

FABPAC member and former CAC Secretary Mark Grayson reported that open houses for the upcoming bond election are under way, and are good opportunities for one-on-one interaction with committee members and staff.

Training:

Co-chair Ann Phipps highlighted CAC member roles and responsibilities.

Approval of September minutes:

Minutes were approved with the addition of Lori Wallace to the list of guests attending. Motion Andrews, second Pfluger.

Election of Officers:

Amy Moore was re-elected as Faculty co-chair; Melanie Plowman was elected Parent co-chair; Will Andrews was elected Secretary. There were no contested positions, and no opposing votes.

FABPAC/Bond Update:

Ann Phipps reported cautious optimism for passage of the bond among attendees of the open house she attended. Community endorsements of the bond were discussed. Early voting begins October 23.

Principal's Report:

Campus Improvement Plan is not yet available for completion, so will be discussed at a future meeting.

Principal Stacia Crescenzi presented historical numbers from an archival Science Academy document from classes graduating in 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990. Information included numbers of students enrolled as freshmen, numbers of the same class who graduated four years later, numbers of those who dropped from the program along the way, ethnicity, and percent of each class who received the Magnet Endorsement.

There was discussion, with contributions by Phipps, Flowers, and Crescenzi, of changes to the program over past years, changes in the classroom interaction of LBJ and Academy (later LASA) students, and how as a result the recalled experiences of former students from the 1990s and 2000s are very different from the experiences of current students. Flowers observed that the larger our program gets, the more our culture differs from what it was in the past.

Crescenzi reported on the establishment of a bond committee for LASA, to be composed of four teachers, three parents, and one student, which will deal with issues related to future changes to LASA, assuming passage of the bond.

Crescenzi reported that recruiting for Fall 2018 is underway, including LASA roadshows and other evening events.

There was discussion of the traffic problem, both in the morning and in the afternoon, at the intersection of Springdale and Pecan Brook, adjacent to the Delco Center. Jurisdiction for this problem has been determined to rest with the City of Austin, not AISD or AISD Police. Phipps will pursue contact with appropriate City staff.

Crescenzi had no update on congestion at the Purple stairs discussed at the September meeting; possible solution is a change in the bell schedule.

Meeting Schedule for November:

The next meeting was scheduled for November 8.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned by Moore at 4:55 pm.