

**Liberal Arts and Science Academy**  
**Campus Advisory Council**  
**1 February 2017 Meeting—Minutes**

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Tracie Gardner, Will Andrews, Sarah Harrelson, Caitlin Palmer, Lynn Boswell, Amy Moore, Ana Irizarry, Sondra Marks, Meagan Butler, Karen Aalund Carlander, Mary Crisler, Ken Pfluger, Jason Flowers, Vanessa Mokry, Oscar Newman, Quinn Simpson, Stacia Crescenzi (ex officio)

**Guests:** Mark Bochey, Nikki Zern, Sofia Moore, Yolanda Torres, Alys Porter, Amy Wright, Nancy Edward, Richard Heffernan, William Kiker, Alison Guckerberge, Mathew Deram, Tali Wildman, Gabriela Vasquez, Linda Harty, Nuri Vallbona, Clara Morse, Lori Wallace, Rob Kohler

## **I. Welcome, Call to Order**

## **III. Citizen Communications**

**Alys Porter**, parent of three students at LASA, expressed concern about communicating more with administrators and district about what is needed for students, beyond issues just between LASA and LBJ, and discussing potential plans for where to house LASA. Furthermore, LASA should emphasize in publicity that it is a school with an admissions process and criteria, and not be apologetic for the success of the school on a whole.

**Rob Kohler**, parent of LASA freshman involved in athletics, described the value his son has received from being a part of both the LASA and LBJ community, and the welcome reception he has received from both communities.

**Richard Heffernan** expressed a similar opinion, saying that activities between the two schools have been incredibly welcoming and beneficial, and that he has not witnessed any hostile environment between the two schools.

## **II. Training Presentation—District Advisory Bodies**

Document and procedures reviewed.

## **IV. January Minutes Approval**

January minutes unanimously approved.

## V. 2015-2016 TAPR Report

The 2015-2016 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) for LASA, has been released. This shows overall that LASA met all standards and received all possible distinctions, with 100% of students passing EOC exams.

The report can be [found on the Austin ISD Website](#). For this year, “Met Standard” is the highest standard, which LASA met, alongside gaining all seven academic distinctions.

It should be emphasized that LASA, an application based school, should not be compared to other non-application based schools with these criteria.

## VI. Principal’s Report

**Applications** There were 645 total applications for all grades received this year. Of those, about 30 applications with existing issues that could lead to the applications not being evaluated due to students not meeting attendance requirements. About 360 freshman acceptances will be sent with the hope of 300 attending. Applications this year are of very high quality, which will likely lead to a higher cut score. A potential cause of this is increased efforts at the middle school level, with expanded mentoring and outreach programs.

**80/20 Update** The 80/20 admissions plan and procedure has been [publicized on the LASA website](#) and has been implemented moving forward. It can be found on the website under Admissions, LASA Acceptance Procedures.

*Procedure Description* **All** students are graded on the holistic rubric. 80% of spaces available will be accepted based on rubric only. The remaining 20% will be evaluated still with the initial rubric but also using a set of five special circumstances modeled somewhat from those used by UT. Students will be considered for admission if they have three of the five special circumstances.

*Takeaway* The number of highly qualified students being rejected will likely be somewhere between 100 and 150 this year, and this is a statistic which continues to grow year over year.

## VII. FACBAC Update

Members of the LBJ community expressed serious issues with the plan to move LASA to the ALC campus, largely due to the historical significance and location of that campus and old Anderson High School. This likely forecloses on the ALC campus as an option for a future LASA location moving forward.

New locations will be considered going forward, although there is no obvious solution within current options.

Ken Pfluger mentioned that it has been about 35 years since old Anderson High School was shut down, and has only been used as the Alternative Learning Center in the interim, with part of the main building condemned as well. He suggested that LASA at the ALC campus could find ways to commemorate the old Anderson High School while putting the space to better use than it currently is, while also satisfying the expressed desire of certain LBJ community members for LASA to leave.

Sondra Marks felt that we should respect the wishes of the community and look for other alternatives, highlighting the very personal and painful nature of the history with both LBJ and LASA and Anderson. Moreover, a new building on the LASA/LBJ campus would have to address the need for meeting and collaborative space—such as gym, library, and theater space—as well as classroom space.

**Tali Wildman**, FABPAC member gave an update on progress and deliberation. She said that no options are off the table yet, but that current programming at ALC and existing issues must be considered. FABPAC is also considering filling remaining space at ALC with community and social services, or potentially even monetizing the space. LASA will continue to be considered and deliberated within FABPAC.

**Trustee Visits** Ana Irizarry, Lori Wallace and two others met with Yasmine Wagner. They spoke of the need to remain comprehensive and potential spaces for LASA moving forward. They discussed how a more central location for LASA would be beneficial to South-West Austin students.

CAC and community members should continue to reach out to district trustees.

## **VIII. Student Group Update**

Quinn Simpson explained the role and history of the student group. This is a group of LASA and LBJ students convened to come up with short term solutions, with no focus on medium or long term issues. The group is, however, working to address some tensions between schools and issues going forward.

## **IX. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 1 at 4:05pm.