

Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Campus Advisory Council

9 November 2016 Meeting—Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Parent Co-Chair Ann Phipps, Faculty Co-Chair Amy Moore, Secretary Mark Grayson, Will Andrews, Lynn Boswell, Karen Carlander, Tracie Gardner, Sarah Harrelson, Ana Irizarry, Sondra Marks, Elaine Martinez, Lisa Moomaw, Rainer Mueller, Oscar Newman, Ken Pfluger Quinn Simpson, Principal Stacia Crescenzi (ex officio)

Guests: Sam Buford, Winn Philpott, Alys Porter, Melanie Plowman, Alys Porter, Ismael Salgado, Sreenidhi Tupuri, Gabriela Vasquez, Lori Wallace

I. Welcome, Call to Order

II. Citizen Communications

<none>

III. Training

Meetings need to have minutes taken and posted.

IV. October Minutes Approval

Minutes approved unanimously.

V. FABPAC Update

Mark Grayson updated the CAC on where things stand with the Facilities Master Plan. In late November, the FABPAC will come up with some preliminary prioritizations for elementary school projects. In early December, a similar process will take place for the secondary school projects. In early January, other AISD facilities that aren't schools will be considered. The FABPAC will present a preliminary Facilities Master Plan to the Trustees and the public in January for public comment and adjustment. Once it is agreed to, work will begin on proposing a Bond Election for November 2017 to take care of the first phase of priorities.

VI. Northeast Austin Planning Committee

Quinn Simpson reported on Tuesday November 29 at. All CACs from the Northeast Austin area are invited. The final plan refers to three areas: 1) improving human capital—through priority hiring in which Northeast Austin schools get first choice among candidates; 2) providing innovative academic programming in the area—several programs will be launched such as

Montessori curriculum at elementary and pre-med K-8 program; and 3) facilities. The facilities portion defers entirely to FABPAC about the future of LASA—in terms of whether to expand the existing campus or move LASA to another location.

VII. Campus Improvement Plan

The principal went over the plan, with emphasis on a few specific highlights such as:

- Coordinated School Health: vending machines need to be turned off during meal times.
- Direct-to-College Enrollment: Increase number of college access activities and making sure that students have an awareness of and encouragement to apply for scholarships, even if they are small ones.
- Parent and Community Involvement: increase participation on parent survey.
- Staff and Student Health and Nutrition: make sure to use Brain Breaks during Flexible Instruction Time (FIT) time.
- Student Fitness: increase involvement in Fitnessgram to make sure that all who are receiving PE credit goes through it during the practice time.
- Technology: increase number of computers that can run the needed software for SciTech/eZine/Robotics/Computer Science.

VIII. CIP Professional development

Professional Development plan includes having the faculty set goals at the end of one school year to plan for the next school year. There will be a strong focus on supporting staff in initiating their own personal learning activities for the new PPT system.

IX. Principal's Report

Admissions Policy Update Postcard flyers went out to potential recruits with information about LASA. They were sent to nearly 1200 8th graders at AISD who listed themselves as Hispanic, African-American, or multiracial, and who were in an advanced math class or pre-AP English class. All elementary schools, middle school office and high schools offices will be sent bundles of 50 to hand out to others. The Principal is scheduling time for mentors to train to assist new applicants in getting ready for the admissions process, in an effort to make sure that all students interested in applying get the kind of support, especially those who may not typically consider LASA as an option for them. Showcase is coming up in a week on 16 November 2016. LBJ's Harvest Festival is the next day on Thursday, 17 November, and serves their entire vertical team, and they are eager to have volunteers to help out.

Attending the National Consortium of Specialized STEM Schools conference gave the Principal a number of ideas about how to integrate curriculum with technology, especially in the humanities, possibly for English/Language Arts "Dante's Hell" project with short films. Possibly even provide an option that students could work together on a virtual reality tour for World History. This may be a way to engage some students who don't feel comfortable with posters and similar projects but find technology engaging.

Dallas ISD has both humanities magnets and science/engineering magnets and may offer insights for professional development sessions concerning "how do you connect with STEM kids about humanities content," and vice versa.

At the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce's State of Education banquet, LASA received several awards:

- Highest number of students filling out FAFSA on time;
- Highest number of students filling out the end-of-year survey: 100%;
- Highest overall direct-to-college enrollment rate

Calendar The district is providing three choices of calendar, and wants input from each CAC:

Options A) Week of Thanksgiving off

Options B) Shorter Thanksgiving break

Options C) Shorter Thanksgiving break; different position for semester break

June 6, 2018 will be the final day of school on all three calendars unless a waiver is requested from TEA.

The district is also interested in finding out from CACs whether there is interest in filing for just such a waiver from TEA so that the school year could start a week earlier (August 21st) and end on 30 May instead of June 6.

X. Next Meeting

Wednesday ,December 7 at 4:00 pm in the library conference room.