

Liberal Arts and Science Academy
Campus Advisory Council
14 September 2016 Meeting—Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Meagan Butler, Ann Phipps, Jason Flowers, Quinn Simpson, Ana Irizarry, Sondra Marks, Oscar Newman, Caitlin Palmer, Lynn Boswel, Rainer Mueller, Amy Moore, Tracie Gardner, Linda Harty, Mary Crisur, Will Andrews, Ken Pfluger, Stacia Crescenzi (ex officio)

Guests: Lori Wallace, True Pham, Sarah Harrelson, Linda Harty, Alys Porter, Nikki Zern, Elaine Martinez, Sam Buford

I. Welcome, Call to Order

III. Citizen Communications

None

II. Training Presentation—Purpose of the CAC

Document & procedures reviewed.

IV. May Minutes Approval

Approval of may minutes deferred to next month's CAC meeting.

V. South Magnet & Northeast Austin Committee Update

The five proposals that the committee generated were essentially thrown out by the AISD administration. The district instead proposed two separate proposals: First to create a 50-acre 2000 student campus for LASA with an estimated cost of roughly \$130 million, and second a separate new south magnet program inside another high school.

Ann Phipps call to action—communicate with trustees regarding the CAC's opinion on moving LASA and the school's space and capacity needs were a new campus to be provided for LASA.

Trustee Cowan has indicated that FABPAC is continuing to operate without adequate input or information to give its recommendations. There are issues of existing campus data sets needed by the committee not portable data.

The Imagine Northeast committee process discussed issues of LASA and LBJ space sharing as well as other district schools, such as single-sex leadership academies and elementary school programming. There was little relative interest in the issue of LASA and LBJ by members of the committee, with most attention going toward middle and elementary schools. The committee split up into 3 sub-groups to create proposals for high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. The high school group created a proposal to split LBJ and LASA following the conditions previously agreed to by the CAC, with an emphasis on investing equitably in both schools.

The committee had all members rank their agreement with each group's proposals, with the LASA/LBJ proposal being incredibly polarizing, with roughly half of the committee either strongly opposing or supporting it. Given the polarization within the committee it is at this point unlikely that the discussions and opinions of the committee will greatly influence district decision-making.

The committee also struggled with lack of actual input from LASA community members, however the one survey that was sent out was taken into account in development of developing individual proposals.

It is recommended that the CAC members and community continue to reach out to not only trustees, but to the superintendent and other district administration officials.

VI. LASA & LBJ Together

The issue of school cohabitation is a continuing challenge. Both LASA and LBJ continue to expand with no available space in the building, and portables are not a long-term solution to space needs.

An architectural analysis of space used within the building was ordered and has been received. Each room and its usage over the day has been mapped by the architects and this information has been shared with both principals.

Both schools have been asked to set up two student groups to work together to look at the data given by the architects to look at the data with the goals of reducing the number of portables and getting the available space in the main building at as close to capacity as possible. This involves examining class sizes and locations. Moreover, an issue at hand is the availability and usage of lab spaces by both schools at different times throughout the day.

Both groups of students will come up with two sets of suggestions that will be brought to both principals for vetting. Once both principals have seen the student plans they will be brought to the CACs for further discussion.

There is also discussion of changing locations or usage of lockers, moving them to create more collaborative or useful spaces for students to work in the hallways.

As long as the two schools continue to share space, for however long that may be, it is important to develop a detailed and efficient long term plan for space utilization and sharing moving forward, potentially including new buildings if necessary.

There should also be focus on developing more cultural and community connectedness going forward in an attempt to alleviate tensions between the two.

Space planning will take into account multiple future enrollment scenarios for both schools, especially the scenario in which both schools continue to grow.

Timeline Two meetings are expected to be held with students and Mr. Shapiro in the next three weeks, with students working together to come up with short and long term proposals. After being vetted by the principals, the proposals will be brought to the CACs and larger communities, with the goal of the process being completed by January, with a joint CAC meeting between LASA and LBJ at some point in December. The two principals will make the final decision. Depending on what decisions are made, financial and logistic implications will be considered by Mr. Shapiro going forward.

VII. Principal's Report

Enrollment LASA currently has 1113 students.

Enrollment statistics vs. Austin Demographics:

	Austin	LASA
White	49.70%	55.8%
Latino	34.0%	17.34%
African American	7.2%	1.62%

Asian	6.1%	19.86%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.07%	0.36%
2+	2.6%	4.85%

FIT Most LASA students are regularly attending fit, with roughly 50 students per day not having signed up for FIT. Many students and teachers currently complain that FIT is too short. More time, however, could only be taken from lunch, as classes legally cannot be less than 90 minutes. FIT is not implemented district wide, although a large number of schools have moved to the system.

Hiring Slightly more teaching and staff spots were filled this year than typically are due to the increase in enrollment. An issue with hiring teachers from out of Austin is the high cost of living in Austin, which makes it challenging for new teachers to move to and work here. New teacher hiring this year has been incredibly successful. New hires include: two counselors, two office staff (library clerk and registrar), three English, three math, no social studies, two CTE, one science, three LOTE. That totals 17 new teachers and staff at LASA this year.

National Merit LASA has 24 national merit semifinalists of the 34 total in the district.

Applications & Minority Recruitment

Recruiting Consistent participation from all AISD middle schools is essential, although no AISD schools have been allowed to schedule recruiting dates. This gives recruiting advantage to private and non-AISD schools at middle schools. Students at private middle schools without attached high schools tend to be more likely to apply.

Outreach Postcards are being created by former teachers and sent out to any 8th grader listed as African American, Latino, or multiracial currently in an advanced math or Pre-AP English. There will also be individualized targeted parent and family events for more personal outreach and answering of questions. This would be more approachable to families than a road show.

Application LASA is now adding demographic information to the application and clarified essay questions. This includes gender identity, race, first

generation to go to college, and if the student has been in AISD previously. There will be an online recruiting video as well as online tutorials. Mentors from community outreach groups are also being trained to assist with the application process. This will primarily focus on four or five middle schools, working with the counselors to identify students who would succeed at LASA. Those students will be assigned a mentor by the first week of October.

Acceptances The plan for the 17/18 school year is that 90% of acceptances will be solely based on a cut score. The final 10% will be reserved for students ranging from below to the cut floor to a defined floor who are Latino or African American. The practice of accepting 20% over the available seats will continue, as it has been accurate in this and previous years.

Out of District Unofficially it seems that there will remain an August 1 deadline for students to move into AISD to attend LASA.

Class Size A goal class size has yet to be set for the next year, however it is largely contingent upon the number of applications received for the next school year.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 5 at 4:05pm.