

Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Campus Advisory Council

4 January 2017 Meeting—Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Parent Co-Chair Ann Phipps, Faculty Co-Chair Amy Moore, Acting Secretary Quinn Simpson, Will Andrews, Lynn Boswell, Meagan Butler, Karen Carlander, Tracie Gardner, Sarah Harrelson, Ana Irizarry, Sondra Marks, Vanessa Mokry, Lisa Moomaw, Oscar Newman, Caitlin Palmer, Ken Pfluger, Principal Stacia Crescenzi (ex officio)

Guests: Joanna Ma, Clara Morse, Rachel Pierron, Alys Porter, Lori Wallace

I. Welcome, Call to Order

II. Citizen Communications

<none>

III. Training

Ann Phipps distributed the 2016 Budget Planning Process.

IV. December Minutes Approval

Minutes approved unanimously.

V. FABPAC Update

Ann Phipps gave a report on discussions FABPAC had about LASA in their recent meetings. She said the group is generally enthusiastic about the idea of moving LASA to the ALC site because it displaces the smallest number of people out of all the relocation options. For this reason, the group could consider relocating LASA as one of the first changes in the project sequence. AISD administration have said there is no sinkhole on the ALC campus and have expressed interest in building a modern campus on the site. The Travis High relocation option has not surfaced in recent FABPAC discussion.

The CAC considered a revised version of the statement that was approved at the December meeting and delivered to the FABPAC. Some wording was adjusted to clarify that the CAC supports a stand-alone independent campus for LASA with comprehensive high school programming, and that the CAC does not support co-location at a new campus or division into multiple schools.

CAC members further refined this statement, adjusting some language to make it more clear that the ALC campus is the preferred site for relocation but that any plan must enable comprehensive programming, that a central location will enable more efficient transportation, and that any plan for long-term colocation with LBJ should provide permanent capacity for growth in enrollment at both schools, up to 1600 students for LASA specifically. These changes were approved unanimously. Ann Phipps said she would deliver the updated statement to the FABPAC for use in their upcoming meetings.

CAC members are encouraged to attend upcoming FABPAC meetings: Thursday January 5th at Carruth Auditorium, Wednesday January 11th at Martin Middle School, and Thursday January 12th at the ALC campus. Proposals will be finalized and project sequencing will be discussed.

After these meetings, the first round of FABPAC's proposals will be shared at community engagement meetings throughout Austin. Ann Phipps will distribute information about these meetings to the LASA community at large.

CAC members are strongly encouraged to set up meetings with their AISD Trustees in order to share the new statement with them and ascertain their level of support.

VI. Student-Generated Space Sharing Plan

Under the guidance of Associate Superintendent Craig Shapiro, a joint committee of LBJ and LASA students presented a PowerPoint of their ideas to improve facilities sharing to the principals of both schools on Tuesday January 3rd. Quinn Simpson, who was one of the presenters, said a good discussion occurred but the ideas ultimately produced by the group lacked valuable input from students, faculty or administrators on their priorities and what they'd be willing to sacrifice to accomplish them. The students will meet together without Mr. Shapiro on Tuesday January 10th to address these concerns, revise the presentation accordingly, and prepare to present to the LBJ and LASA CACs on January 25th to inform them of their plan.

VII. Principal's Report

Recruitment and Mentoring Recruiting has concluded. LASA has parent volunteers at 10 area schools helping to mentor students through the application process. LASA would like to collect data about how many students are participating and how many participants ultimately submit an application in order to gain insight into the efficacy of the program.

Admissions Policy Update The district's legal department has given a positive assessment of the principal's proposal to adjust the LASA Admissions Policy to include five special circumstances that may also be included in consideration of admissions. The principal is waiting on written approval of the adjustment from Dr. Cruz before going public with the details.

LASA is requiring applicants to submit proof of residency as per the new AISD policy for magnet admissions. For an application to be considered, the applicant must reside in AISD boundaries by January 21st or be moving in (signing a lease, purchasing a property, etc) within 45 days of that date.

New TEA rating system The Texas Education Agency will be publishing a new letter grade system that ranks schools and school districts on an A-F scale in four areas. The first three will be determined by state-mandated testing and the fourth will be determined by graduation rates, dropout rates, and postsecondary readiness. In addition to this new system, the TEA will be maintaining its existing system of standards and distinctions.

This year's letter grades are unofficial and are only intended to serve as a preview of how the system will work going forward. Nonetheless, CAC members should be aware that the disparity in scores generated by the two systems as well as the disparities in letter grades between different schools in our area may be matters of concern to community members.

VIII. Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 1 at 4:05 pm in the library conference room.