

## **Akins Campus Advisory Council Minutes**

### **May 7, 2014**

#### **Members Present:**

Susan Starks	Melissa Contreras	Daniel Girard
Lisa Beach	Beverly Mendez	Deborah Hoover
Naomi Tijera	Patty Bouranis	Ben Grajczyk
Shawn Mena	Ashley Hayes	Cullen Haskins
Mark Martinez	Jeannie McGough	

#### **Call to Order:**

Melissa Contreras, Co-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

#### **Comments:**

No comments were noted from the floor.

#### **Minutes:**

A review of the February 2014 minutes was conducted. Upon motion by Ms. Mena, seconded by Ms. Hoover, the minutes were approved as amended.

#### **Reports:**

- **Principal's report:**

Mr. Girard noted that he has frequently reported regarding campus visits from staff of other institutions who want to study the Akins campus model. Mr. Girard shared a presentation that is made to those institutions which features the academic model, the academy composition, the historical overview of academic progression, the history of SEC development, campus Goals, and best practices. Mr. Girard explained that Akins is a comprehensive urban high school. SREB did a case study on Akins which is presented to other schools – provides historical perspective on the school. When you go to a national conference, the study is featured. HSTW – ten key practices focus on students, and include: “High expectations, Students actively engaged.” HSTW produces a rubric for Smaller Learning Communities which Akins has continuously studied with the goal of reaching the Rubric goal of supporting students and teachers. Mr. Girard noted that the ELA TAKS data reflects LEP and SPED populations have both improved considerably to close to 70 percent. The Science TAKS results reflect that from 2003 to 2012, the average for all students was at 52 percent

and has improved to almost 80 percent. The Math TAKS results reflect an improvement average for all students at approximately 57 percent which improved to an average of 73 percent. Mr. Girard noted that the TAKS math scores from 2009 for 11<sup>th</sup> graders was less than 76 percent passing, while last year, approximately 95 percent passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Mena, seconded by Jamie, to extend the time allotted to Mr. Girard for his presentation.

Mr. Girard reported on the achievement results on Social Studies, as well as 2013 data from the STAAR test administration. Mr. Girard noted the comparative results for STAAR test performance amongst those schools which have comparable populations to Akins. Mr. Girard noted those schools which did not implement remediation, and the nexus between Akins' remediation efforts and higher performance reflected in the relative scores.

Mr. Girard described the Campus Leadership Team responsibilities and goals, the Core Department PLCs, the Intervention Calendar. Mr. Girard explained the practical application of Campus & District Assessments and predictions to strategic interventions by campus staff. The PCL Activities and Learning Walks are published on the intranet (Wiki), and visible to every faculty member on campus. Mr. Girard described the Academy SLCs, which occur on scheduled late start dates. Mr. Girard introduced the Majors and Certifications offered by Akins High School, as well as the utilization of Advisory period to support student success. Mr. Girard described the current project based learning instruction sponsored by Akins, as well as Whole Campus Instructional Strategies, which includes the model of "Flipping the Classroom". Mr. Girard explained the School Wide Literacy Focus. One of the programs that Akins participates in is its affiliation with the Carnegie Foundation, which supports continuous teacher coaching. The campus has accumulated 1600 documented walk throughs this year, which have led to modified practice. Mr. Girard described the different types of meetings which are held on campus every week.

Mr. Girard reported on the status of end of course testing, and is optimistic about the results based upon his observations of the commitment. Upon motion of Ms. Mena, seconded by Ms. Hoover, Mr. Girard's report was accepted.

- **DAC – Vickie Black:** Ms. Black was not present, and therefore, no DAC report was received.
- **Academy reports:** Mr. Martinez reported that on May 9 the Fine Arts Gala will be occurring in the theater. On May 15, the musical, "You're a

good man Charlie Brown” in the theater. On May 27, a film screening will be held in the theater. The STEM academy cookout will be happening on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Robotics students will compete on May 15 in Brooklyn, Michigan. Last site visits will be happening next week. Austin Travis County EMS would like to use the interns for their introductory internship. Mr. Martinez reported that all Criminal justice interns have applied for a four year university or will be joining the military. Next year, hope to certify students with hours toward becoming a paralegal or clerk.

Ms. McGough reported that May 16 and May 19 vertical teams from two elementary campuses are coming tour Akins to see some of the activities on campus. A motion was made by Ms. Mena, seconded by Ms. Hoover, and the academy report of Ms. Black was accepted as presented.

- **PTSA** – No representative from PTSA being present, there was no report for May.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Ms. Contreras called for nominations from the floor for candidates for the recording secretary role. Ms. McGough moved, seconded by Mena.

Mr. Haskins was nominated for Faculty co-chair, and Ms. Bouranis for recording secretary, and the nomination was seconded by Ms. Hoover.

Ms. Hoover was nominated by Ms. McGough as the parent co-chair, seconded by Ms. Mena.

Ms. Mena voted to accept the officers as nominated, Ms. McGough seconded, and the nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. Mena noted that she had concerns regarding the climate survey results based upon the campus results reported by Mr. Girard. The results show that the faculty has done nothing but make improvement. Mr. Girard noted that the feedback from faculty reflected improvement in the climate responses overall. A discussion was held regarding the climate survey. Ms. Contreras suggested that this remain a topic of discussion during the upcoming year.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion of Ms. Mena, seconded by Mr. Grajczyk the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.