

Akins Campus Advisory Council Minutes

September 7, 2013

Members Present:

Natalee Peterson Susan Starks Jeanie McGough Ashley Hayes Teresa Morgan Melissa Contreras	Gayle Ferguson Erica San Miguel Vickie Warr Robert Kibbie Tonya Kalfelz Daniel Girard	John Lloyd Julie Westerlund Vickie Black Jose Valles-Morales Beverly Mendez
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I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. New members

All members introduced themselves, stating name and position. Ms. Contreras informed new members about the CAC training guide and additional information will be given at following meeting.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (May '11)

Ms. Contreras asked members to look over the minutes for review. Correction: Ms. Mena could not take position as secretary. Ms. Contreras called for volunteers; Mr. Ferguson offered to serve in the event that there are no other volunteers. Ms. Contreras called for motion to approve minutes. First motion by Vickie Warr, second by Jeannie McGough.

IV. Reports

a. Principal – Daniel Girard

Mr. Girard reported that the beginning of the school year has been very successful. He has been meeting with 10th graders and freshmen, and he cannot remember such a well behaved group. He notes that in walking around the campus, the students are very focused and engaged. The campus sponsored a full-day professional development; Ms. Mena did a great presentation on Inside Colors, and the feedback was constructive with regard to communication styles and meeting needs of different personalities in terms of communications. Teachers engaged a discussion of autonomy, including campus impact and best practices, which was a segway into communication. The discussion set the foundation for continued work on communication. Mr. Girard has committed to monthly meetings with the faculty where he can continue to communicate campus expectations; the first such meeting will be on September 19, 2013. The feedback from the colors survey was constructive in terms of enabling the administration to focus on communication. Mr. Girard reported on the Superintendent's convocation and the focus on literacy. Akins has shown that the strategies that are being implemented in the classrooms are resulting in higher student performance. When Carstarphen is talking about balanced literacy, he believes we are really on focus with that mandate. Mr. Girard and Ms. McGough visited universities this summer, and those institutions confirmed that the flipped classroom model implemented by Akins last year is really supported by those schools. The students have responded well to this instructional model. Within science and social studies, we have implemented interactive notebooks which continue to be evaluated.

Mr. Girard reported that enrollment is down a bit, to around 2500 people (from a projection of 2600). Potentially, what may happen is the loss of teacher units. There are two vacancies on campus that were never filled which will be utilized to offset this potential contingency. As we look at House Bill 5 and its requirements, we may need to revisit the classes that some students are taking. We have now become a twilight high school site, which means that in the evenings from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., we offer remediation or acceleration courses. This enables some students to take classes they ordinarily would not be able to do within their regular schedule, and other students to catch up as needed.

Mr. Girard reported on the KLRU special on the band program, which really spoke to the work that the adults do on this campus and that we have shown, with our band and other programs, that our students excel academically and extracurricular as well.

Mr. Girard provided the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) framework, and stated that he wanted to share the meat of the document. The objectives are listed on the first page; our CIP is focused on our students and their academic performance. When he meets with his staff that is really what they talk about. With the new accountability system, Akins met the campus performance standard. Akins exceeded Crockett in terms of their comparable index indicators.

The CIP objectives include:

- In the 2013-14 year, 80% of Algebra I students will reach Phase II of EOC STAAR.
- In 2013-14, 80% of US History students will reach Phase II of EOC STAAR.
- In 2013-14, 90% of all Biology students will reach Phase II of EOC STAAR.
- In 2013-14, 50% of all Reading and Writing students will reach Phase II of EOC STAAR.
- Adequate and appropriate campus-level professional development will be provided.

Mr. Girard discussed the content of the Campus Identified Action Plan, including the areas of needed improvement and the processes for assessment of performance to goals. The campus is not necessarily required to administer MOY assessments because of successful performance, but Mr. Girard has made an executive decision to continue these assessments to enable comparison of our achievement to the performance of reach schools, so we can really get an accurate picture of where students are performing and make adjustments as necessary.

With language arts, we are in the process of assessing our students' reading levels; we want to make sure that teachers in every content area are aware of their students' reading level and that they have appropriate materials to ensure that students' success. In our language arts courses, we are focused on balanced literacy so as to know where students are and then challenge their performance.

Mr. Girard presented the student discipline aggregate report and noted that the discipline on campus has declined. Many of the incidents reported are redundant with mandatory removals, which means for reasons which by law are mandated. Another reason which may explain some of the numbers are external reports from law enforcement of non-school related conduct resulting in removals. Compared to other schools, Akins does not stand out in terms of discipline.

Dr. Westerlund asked whether the group would receive the complete CIP document. Ms. Contreras noted that the CIP will be available online shortly. Dr. Westerlund requested that the CAC liaisons consult the materials on the website of Joey Crumbley to obtain the recommended schedule for disclosure of CAC objectives for the year.

Motion was made by Ms. Ward to approve Mr. Girards' report, seconded by Ms. McGough.

b. District Advisory Committee

Ms. Vickie Black described the structure and function of the District Advisory Committee. During the last meeting, the Superintendent stated that the priorities for the District will be literacy, budget and legislative appropriations. The DAC will conduct a CAC training in September or October. In their initial meeting, the DAC broke into groups and discussed topics for the breakout workshop in December. This is a one day retreat during which everyone comes to discuss strategies around what the district is looking at and what it could be looking at, that will be October 19 at the Long Performing Arts Center. The DAC discussed community engagement. Ms. Black noted that the meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the AISD auditorium; the DAC is seeking a parent member from the Akins vertical team to serve. Joey Crumbley has been appointed over the Advisory body.

c. Student Organizations

No student organizations were present.

d. Report of Academies

Ms. Warr reported that the Open House will be held on September 11, 2013. As an incentive to foster attendance, the teacher whose class has the highest percentage of parental attendance will receive a Cut Pass, which is a cut in line at the cafeteria. The teacher will also receive a free lunch from the Fire and Soul lunch truck. Ms. Kallfelz reported that STEM academy took about 20 students on a college visit to New York and Boston and Washington. The students were able to tour MIT, NYU and all reported having a great time touring the universities. This year New Tech has a new director, Brandi Hosack, who is taking that academy in a new direction. Ms. Hosack is

looking for some grants for her academy. The social services academy has a new practicum in the academy: the students will be able to go and work with the athletic trainers on campus. The ABLE academy has initiated a new internship for 911 operators. ACES has initiated an internship with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Black asked whether there was an alternative available for teachers whose students' parents were not able to attend; Ms. McGough confirmed that there is a discussion regarding alternate options for those teachers. The goal is to get the information to the family.

e. **PTSA**

Ms. Starks will contact the PTSA to participate at next CAC.

V. New Business (Unfinished/Tabled for next meeting)

- a. Dr. Westerlund thanked Mr. Girard and detailed their collaboration over the summer. Dr. Westerlund detailed the inception of a subcommittee for the CAC, the purpose of which is to come together and make representations for the CIP. The subcommittee met three times during the summer; Dr. Westerlund submitted the minutes from the subcommittee meetings.

Tomorrow, the subcommittee will meet with a working group that came out of the 19th professional development day. Mr. Girard stated that extra PD training was paid out of campus budget and not from district. Ms. McGough wants to know who decided about what would be discussed on the 19th and the budget for that date. Ms. Mendez stated that she feels like she has been lied to; she understood that the subcommittee was for the Campus Improvement Plan. She questioned where is the student element in all of these meetings. Ms. Mendez wants to know where every single cent of money is coming from to cover cost of PD. She was notified of the first meeting but had a work conflict. The second meeting was convened during work hours, which conflicts for a parent who has a job, and she wasn't notified of the third meeting. Where is the subcommittee part work. If this school spent \$30,000, Ms. Mendez requests that she be notified of the purpose of any expenditures that were made in support of the meeting of the subcommittee. Dr. Westerlund stated that she left a voice message for Ms. Mendez and that she sent emails to Ms. Starks and Ms. Contreras notifying them of meeting dates. Ms. Mendez noted work of the sub-committee was incomplete.

Mr. Girard addressed those in attendance who are new to the CAC. With respect to the comments within the document provided by Dr. Westerlund, and in an effort to put behaviors in context; when we talk about teacher autonomy; it is important to ensure that we are being consistent with practices in other schools and our practices are based upon best practices.

Motion was made by Ms. Black, seconded by Ms. McGough to extend the period of discussion by ten minutes.

Continued discussion. Ms. Starks noted a concern that the content of the information tendered by Dr. Westerlund was not consistent with the original authorized purpose of the CAC subcommittee, which was to make recommendations to the CAC. The concern is that any actions outside of this purpose, or any actions other than a review of the CIP, should have first been evaluated and sanctioned by the CAC committee at large.

Further discussion occurred. Mr. Girard, Ms. McGough, and Ms. SanMiguel commented.

Ms. Peterson noted that a large problem is that there is no one in the room has sufficient information to discuss the issues. She moved to table the discussion so that research can be done and people can be contacted in order to enable further discussion at the next meeting, and Ms. McGough suggested that Ms. Peterson contact someone involved in the presentation to obtain data and purpose of training.

Ms. Mendez made a second motion that the CAC clarify the purpose of the subcommittee and whether subcommittees have the authority to create working groups without approval of the CAC. The motion was seconded by Ms. McGough.

Dr. Westerlund noted that we need student representatives at the meeting; Ms. McGough noted that given that this is the second week of school, we do expect to enlist participation by student members going forward. Everyone that wants to join the subcommittee is welcome to attend.

VI. New Business

VII. Public Comments

A public member noted that there is a meeting on September 17, 2013 at Houston Elementary from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. regarding nutrition and the global concerns regarding obesity.

Ms. McGough motioned to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Ms. San Miguel. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.