

Akins Campus Advisory Council Minutes

November 6, 2013

Members Present:

Natalee Peterson	Susan Starks	Melissa Contreras
Erika San Miguel	Gayle Ferguson	Shawn Mena
Vicki Warr	Daniel Girard	Vickie Black
Kenyatta Williams	Lisa Beach	Darren Masur
John Lloyd	Ethan Peters	Jesus Valles-Morales

Call to Order:

Melissa Contreras, Co-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Comments:

Ms. Lisa Beach was welcomed as a new member. A call was made for public comments and none were offered.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Vickie Warr, seconded by Jesus Valles-Morales, the minutes were approved as presented.

Reports:

- **Principal's report:**

Mr. Girard reported that the Student Support Services office is helping approximately 60 students whose families have been impacted by the flooding. The District is excusing the textbook obligations for those students, and resources are being identified to meet specific needs. The campus is working with the Transportation department to ensure that students are being transported appropriately. Ms. San Miguel and her students collected donations for students today; for those desiring to assist in some way, they should contact Colleen Arnold, who will best be able to facilitate those donations.

Mr. Girard reported that about a week and a half ago, the campus had a parent conference day. Every parent of a child that is experiencing difficulty is invited to come to the school to discuss how they can partner in assisting their child. Each parent is able to visit with the teachers of their respective student, and close to 1000 conferences were conducted that day. Mr. Girard noted that we offer the parent conference day after grades are published. One of the concerns noted right now is with

respect to Algebra I grades. Mr. Girard reported that there is concern that a high percentage of students have failed Algebra I in the first semester. One or two teachers are having an extraordinary number of students having difficulty, and so the staff is reviewing strategies

Attendance rate was about 95 percent for the first six weeks. This six weeks, the numbers may be impacted by the flooding.

Mr. Girard reported that a couple of weeks ago, the campus offered a day-long professional development involving an assessment of the standards and practice protocol. Each department participated; as teachers were evaluating their work, there was a lot of discussion around refining assignments to make sure they are at the right level, we are calibrating appropriately between teachers.

Mr. Girard reported that Akins is a Strategic Compensation campus. Teachers have created assessments that they have given to students; if the students reach their goals and objectives by the end of the year, there is a financial compensation involved. Mr. Girard described the process, including the creation of rubrics which address expectations around student performance, and the dialogues that are occurring between teachers and the administration.

Mr. Girard stated that the football team has been quite a bit successful this year, and anticipate going to the playoffs this year.

Ms. Black inquired about the strategies for remediation for the Algebra students, and the strategies for assisting the students who have been impacted by the floods in catching up with their work.

Upon motion to accept the Principal's report was made by Mr. Valles-Morales, and seconded by Ms. Peterson, the Principal's report was accepted.

- **DAC – Vickie Black:** Ms. Black reported that the DAC convened CAC training at Bowie High School on October 24, 2013, and that training was successful. Ms. Black invited the membership to attend DAC meetings, which are convened each month

Upon motion by Natalee Peterson, seconded by Vickie Warr, the report of the DAC Representative was approved.

- **Academies Report:** The academies did have the photo shoots on the 21st; The parent conference day went well. The ACES academy students went kayaking on Ladybird lake recently as part of the park ranger internship program, which was successful. Ms. Warr stated that the AHA academy is getting ready for a site visit by a group of instructors

from Arkansas. AHA is in the process of presenting its first major play – a comedy. Mr. Valles reported that of the students who were cast, it is their first time on stage and only a few of them are seniors. Ms. Warr noted that this is a very entertaining school. Ms. Warr noted that a group of students recently attended the Austin Film Festival, where a 2012 Akins graduate was featured in a short film. The Band has received an overall rating of a “1” at the UIL competition, and just recently competed and received second place overall.

And choir had a student advance to the State level. The speech and debate team will be attending a tournament at Connally high school next week. Akins is starting an online literary magazine and hopefully, at the end of the year, will have a magazine available for distribution.

The STEM academy just held a Board of Directors luncheon that was well attended, trying to ensure interest for future funding from community members. Ms. Mena noted that STEM is advancing to the international competition with members from our partner team in Granbury; they will be competing next week.

Upon motion of Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Peters, the report of the Academies was approved.

Ms. Black described a scholarship opportunity offered by the Texas Education Agency, Hispanic Employees Association.

- **PTSA** – No representative was present, so no report was received.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business was presented.

Adjournment: Upon motion of Natalee Peterson, seconded by Erika SanMiguel, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.