

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
October 5, 2020
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Tammy Stone, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Rachel Murray, Elaine Bohls-Graham, Andrea Rogers, Nicole Sorto, Carly Kehn, Kristen Wachsmann, Megan Susong, Shelley Goldstein, Heather Ramsay; Student Representatives Eliana Herrera, Emily Arndt, Olivia Navarro; Parent Representatives Claire Mathias, Bria Cirkiel, Holly Eaton, Laura Dooley, Viva Garza, Carlene Wegman Todd; Community Representatives Susan Moffat, Laura Yeager.

1. **Call to order.** Co-chairs Claire Mathias and Rachel Murray called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:31pm. A quorum was present.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes of the September CAC meeting were approved via email prior to the October meeting and posted to the CAC webpage.
<https://mccallumhs.com/programs/parents/cac/>
3. **Feedback on Back to School Knight.** Acting Principal Nicole Griffith reported that McCallum's virtual Back to School Night was well attended, with about 250 parents logging in via Zoom the first night and about 300 second night. Each night provided approximately 45 minutes of synchronous programming including a welcome and a review of the reopening plan. Attendees were then released for the asynchronous portion of the program, in which parents were able to follow their student's class schedule and view short Flipgrid videos created by their teachers. Email feedback was generally positive, with some parents deeming it more accessible than in-person back to school nights. Teachers also enjoyed it, but missed interacting with students' families. The CAC discussed the possibility of using a hybrid system in future years.
4. **Update/Evolution of Reopening Plan.** Ms. Griffith reported that the first day of in-person classes went smoothly, with about 50 students attending in the group assigned to Mondays/Tuesdays. A different group of about 50 students will attend on Wednesdays/Thursdays, and some Special Education students will attend every day. McCallum had planned for a higher number of in-person students based on the August parent survey, but many additional families opted to stay home in the days before reopening. Health screenings went well; most students used the district app and all people in the building were given blue wristbands to indicate they had passed the health screening (wristbands will change to an unannounced color each day). All classrooms observed strict social distancing protocols, with 2-6 students per room. Student athletes were grouped separately with their respective teams and coaches, recognizing that they had already been exposed to each other during practices. McCallum provided computers,

headphones and facemasks to any students who needed them. Most teachers are currently monitoring an in-person group for two half-days, which allows them to better focus on students while maintaining their teaching schedules. The McCallum administrative team has started planning for Phase 3 of reopening, which could begin in a matter of weeks. In that phase, Ms. Griffith anticipates that faculty will teach students in the classroom while simultaneously Zooming for those at home; she acknowledged this will be challenging, but believes it is preferable to asking teachers to perform two entirely separate functions. The bell schedule will remain the same in Phase 3, although Fridays may be subject to change. Ms. Griffith hopes to keep asynchronous scheduling for the afternoons in Phase 3, and will continue to communicate with McCallum families as plans are developed. The district's Human Resources department has granted accommodations for some faculty members to teach from home; Ms. Griffith will advocate for others who have at-risk family members to be allowed to do the same, though the ultimate decisions in these cases will rest with HR. There will be an adult monitor in the classroom for any classes that are being taught remotely. Ms. Griffith noted that this is a difficult situation for everyone, but believes that this is the best instructional model under the circumstances. It is unknown at this time whether the TEA waiver that allows remote learning will continue past November 2.

5. **Timeline for McCallum Principal Position.** Co-chair Claire Mathias outlined the district process for selecting a permanent principal for McCallum. The district will send a letter to parents with information about the timeline and opportunities for participation in the selection process, including a public meeting (presumably virtual) to identify the qualities the McCallum community seeks in a principal. A selection committee including the two CAC co-chairs, two parents, a staff member and a teacher will develop a list of questions for principal candidates. Interviews with finalists will be held on November 30 and the AISD Board of Trustees will vote to approve a permanent principal in December. This is a very tight timeline, but CAC co-chairs will communicate each step to families as the process progresses to encourage as broad participation as possible.
6. **Citizen Communication.** No one present had signed up to speak. Susan Moffat suggested changing the wording of this required agenda item to Public Comment so as not to give the impression that all speakers must be citizens. Holly Eaton stated that the agenda wording is set at the district level and volunteered to raise this issue at the next District Advisory Council meeting.
7. **Cognito Training.** As discussed at the September CAC meeting, Assistant Principal Tamara Stone has secured a \$10,000 grant for Cognito Training, a professional development program designed to assist teachers in developing trust with struggling students and to connect them with appropriate help and resources. The faculty has already completed its first training session, focused on communicating with at-risk students, and feedback has been very positive. The next two sessions, scheduled for November 3, will focus on trauma-based training

and LGBTQIA issues. The program also includes training for students, using a friend-to-friend model for peers dealing with stress or mental health issues. Ms. Stone emphasized that neither students or teachers are expected to perform the role of counselors, rather that the training will help them learn how to have an effective, sensitive conversations with students who are struggling and guide them to appropriate help. The asynchronous trainings build skills by simulating conversations with students in an animated format. All McCallum staff members are participating, with time off for voting on the November 3rd training date.

8. **CIP Update.** State law requires every Texas public school to develop a yearly Campus Improvement Plan (CIP). Like all schools, McCallum's current data is skewed due to the pandemic so the administration must rely largely on previous data in developing the 2020-21 plan. Ms. Griffith will email the draft CIP to CAC members for review as soon as it is available. Members may email any comments to her or raise questions at the November CAC meeting.
9. **Adjourn.** There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned tis meeting at 6:27pm.