

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
May 3, 2021

MINUTES

Present via Zoom: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Elaine Bohls-Graham, Andrea Rogers, Rachel Murray Carly Kehn; Student Representatives Emily Arndt, Olivia Navarro; Parent Representatives Bria Cirkiel, Holly Eaton, Kevin Foster, Desiree Laing, Laura Dooley, Patricia Traicoff, Viva Garza, Carlene Wegman Todd; Community Representatives Susan Moffat, Laura Yeager.

1. **Call to Order.** Co-chair Claire Mathias called the meeting to order at 5:34pm. Ms. Mathias congratulated student representatives Emily Arndt and Olivia Navarro on the success of the prom, which was held outdoors at Stubb's to maintain social distancing. Co-chair Rachel Murray extended appreciation to senior students and parents for their service on the CAC.

2. **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes of the April CAC meeting were approved via email vote prior to the May meeting and were posted to the McCallum website.

3. **City Rezoning of Dart Bowl Property.** Community representative Susan Moffat presented a draft letter for CAC approval regarding a requested rezoning to allow 300 units on two combined sites at 5700 Grover Avenue (the former Dart Bowl location) and 5612 Roosevelt Avenue, directly across Grover from McCallum High School. The letter asks City Council and the city's Planning Commission to require the following actions as conditions of upzoning these sites: (1) Require at least ten percent of the units to be affordable at 60% Median Family Income (MFI) level for rental units or at the 80% MFI level for ownership units; and (2) install signage on the stretch of Grover adjacent to McCallum to reserve street parking for school use only during school hours. **ACTION:** After questions and discussion, the CAC voted unanimously to approve the letter to City Council and Planning Commission regarding the proposed rezoning. Ms. Moffat will submit the letter to the city appropriate bodies and reach out to the area's Neighborhood Plan Contact Team about this issue.

4. **Citizens' Communication.** No one present wished to speak.

5. **Principal's Report.**

Good news. Principal Nicole Griffith reported that the McCallum prom at Stubb's was a huge success and thanked student representative Emily Arndt who reached out to Stubb's to secure the venue. McCallum's baseball team was ranked 10th in the state by the coach's association, the only AISD school to achieve this distinction, and a McCallum wrestler was ranked 8th in the state. The McCallum Orchestra swept the UIL competitions, winning numerous awards. The Blue Brigade gave an excellent performance, including representatives from the 2020 team who were prevented from performing last year due to pandemic restrictions.

Attendance. Ms. Griffith reported that McCallum students have returned to campus in greater numbers, now averaging 340-350 students per day as compared to last month's average of roughly 120 per day. Juniors and seniors have been on hand with maps for in-person students who are new to the school, and Ms. Griffith reported a positive energy in the halls now that more students are back on campus. Ms. Griffith noted that there are funding issues associated with attendance, but emphasized that McCallum is not motivated by funding and supports families' decisions about what is right for their students regarding a return to in-person learning.

TEA Funding Requirements. Ms. Griffith outlined the TEA's formula for "hold harmless" funding, noting that, under this formula, McCallum would need to make up roughly 13 days of attendance to be fully funded by the state. Because the TEA also requires that students take STAAR tests in person, it will be difficult for high schools to make up the required attendance percentages for full funding before the end of the school year while still maintaining social distancing in classrooms. Ms. Griffith expressed frustration with the TEA's hold harmless requirements, noting that our hands are tied by the state. Parent representative Laura Yeager observed that only four states in the U.S. have required schools to be open for in-person learning during the pandemic, and only two – Florida and Texas – have made funding contingent on in-person attendance. Ms. Griffith has prepared an FAQ email to go out to families on Thursday with information about attendance and funding.

End-of-School Events. Ms. Griffith reported that the Fine Arts Academy Convocation is scheduled for May 27th at House Park Field; details will be released this week. McCallum's graduation will be held June 1st at House Park Field; details will be released this week. There will also be a senior parade on June 2nd, culminating in a parking lot party for seniors; the administration is currently working with the city on permits for the parade route.

Final Exam Waivers. Ms. Griffith reported that passing seniors will receive automatic waivers for final exams and do not need to apply for an exam waiver. Senior exams will start on May 19 for seniors who need to take the final to pass a class or wish to take an exam to improve their grades. Seniors will still need to do attendance check-ins on exam days even if they have a waiver. Students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades may apply for final exam waivers from May 12-19. Teachers will review waiver requests on May 21st, followed by an assistant principal review. The final approved list for student exam waivers will be returned to teachers on May 26, and teachers will notify students approved for exam waivers on May 26-27. A final exam grade will not hurt a student's average class grade, but students may wish to try to improve their class grade with a strong final exam score.

Additional Information for Seniors. Ms. Griffith reported that senior transcripts, which some colleges request, will be available fairly quickly once the semester ends. This information will be included in a comprehensive email to senior parents with details about graduation and other end-of-school activities.

6. Other Business. AISD Trustee and parent representative Kevin Foster thanked Ms. Griffith for her leadership during this challenging year and congratulated her on being named principal. He also noted that AISD's new superintendent has had to make difficult

decisions on a number of issues, some of which may be upsetting, but that she is listening to the community and that he feels the district is generally headed in the right direction Ms. Griffith observed that this has been the hardest time imaginable to come in as a new leader for a school district and asked that the community maintain open minds. Laura Yeager said thanks were due to Congressman Lloyd Doggett who inserted the provision in the latest pandemic relief bill that required states to send federal relief money to schools, not use it to supplant the state's own funding contribution as Texas did with the first round of pandemic relief.

7. Adjourn. There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:31pm.