

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
February 1, 2021

MINUTES

Present via Zoom: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Rachel Murray, Elaine Bohls-Graham, Nicole Sorto, Kristen Wachsmann, Megan Susong; Student Representatives Eliana Herrera, Emily Arndt, Olivia Navarro; Parent Representatives Claire Mathias, Bria Cirkiel, Holly Eaton, Laura Dooley, Viva Garza, Carlene Wegman Todd, Desiree Laing; Community Representatives Susan Moffat, Laura Yeager; Business Representative Shawn Cirkiel.

1. **Call to order.** Co-chair Claire Mathias called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:34pm.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes of the January CAC meeting were approved via email vote prior to the February meeting and posted to the McCallum website.
3. **CAC Training Video.** Co-chair Rachel Murray announced that the training video, "Getting to Know Your District Advisory Bodies," is available online in English and Spanish on the AISD website at <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/cac/resources>
4. **Citizens Communications.** No one present wished to speak.
5. **Principal's Report. *General.*** Acting Principal Nicole Griffith reported that in-person STAAR testing will go forward as required by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). McCallum has broken ground on the new outdoor stage and the footers have been laid; further construction will begin as soon as the city permits are cleared. AISD has named McCallum's Chris Purkiss as New Teacher of the Year. McCallum successfully administered in-person PSAT tests, which went smoothly; in-person SAT tests are scheduled for March 3 and will follow a similar format.

Flexible Staffing. AISD allowed McCallum to implement flexible staffing during pandemic Stage 5 restrictions; McCallum is currently averaging 60 students per day for in-person learning so does not need the full faculty on-site. Ms. Griffith is submitting a proposal to retain flexible staffing, with the goal of ensuring each in-person student has access to a highly qualified teacher. As more students return to campus, more teachers will return, except for those with an approved accommodation. Ms. Griffith stressed the importance of retaining McCallum's excellent faculty throughout the pandemic.

Budget. AISD's budget process is slightly delayed due to the pandemic, but Ms. Griffith expects that have budget information by the March CAC meeting.

Enrollment. McCallum currently has 1830 students enrolled, which is 60 over this year's projections, and the district expects an additional 100 students next year. McCallum will remain open for curriculum transfers for the Fine Arts Academy, but will also be open for tracking, sibling, and majority-to-minority transfers – categories that had been frozen for the past four years. In addition, AISD staff members may transfer their children to any AISD school and many choose McCallum. Ms. Griffith does not expect large numbers of tracking or sibling transfers, and noted that majority-to-minority transfers will be a positive addition to campus diversity. General transfers will remain frozen for McCallum. AISD will fund staff based on projected enrollment and should adjust staffing if McCallum is above or below projected enrollment.

Exam waivers. Like many other AISD high schools, McCallum will implement a final exam waiver program for students with 90% attendance and no disciplinary issues (ISS or ALC). Starting in the spring semester, 9th graders may choose one final exam waiver per semester; 10th graders may choose two waivers per semester, but only one may be in a core class; 11th graders may waive three finals per semester, but only two core may be in core classes; seniors may waive four finals per semester, and graduating seniors who meet all requirements may waive all finals for the spring semester (this will enable staff to better focus on struggling seniors). Students may not waive final exams for same class twice in one year, except for second semester seniors. An AP student who takes the AP exam will be exempt from the final exam in that course. The final class grade for students waiving final exams will be based on the average of their last three six-week periods in that class. Ms. Griffith stressed that waivers are not exemption; students will still have to show up and submit some type of reflection to the teacher. Ms. Griffith will provide detailed information about the waiver program to students and families as soon as possible.

Professional Development. Ms. Griffith reported that McCallum will offer a choice of teacher-led PD sessions for staff on February 12 and February 15. Faculty will provide expertise on a range of topics, allowing participants to select sessions with the most relevance to their needs. There will be six sessions with a choice of roughly five topics in each session.

Expo Knight. McCallum's all-virtual Expo Knight is scheduled for February 25, and will allow incoming 9th graders and their families to understand curriculum options and build choice sheets. McCallum is planning to hold two orientations next fall, one for incoming 9th graders and another for current 9th graders who did not receive an orientation due to pandemic restrictions.

6. **Other Business.** Laura Yeager noted that the TEA has not waived End of Course (EOC) exam requirements during the pandemic, and asked how many current seniors had not yet passed; Ms. Griffith will send her the numbers. Holly Eaton encouraged CAC members to nominate outstanding staff members for a district award. Nominations close February 4th; forms are available at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfko-0xmMVDZ6i11ExnwC4PosCZm8jn6Gcb8Kx8kk_nKCxzuw/viewform

7. **Adjourn.** There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:25pm.