

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
April 5, 2021

Present via Zoom: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Elaine Bohls-Graham, Andrea Rogers, Nicole Sorto, Rachel Murray, Carly Kehn, Megan Susong, Heather Ramsay; Student Representatives Eliana Herrera, Olivia Navarro; Parent Representatives Claire Mathias, Bria Cirkiel, Desiree Laing, Laura Dooley, Viva Garza, Carlene Wegmann Todd; Community Representatives Susan Moffat, Laura Yeager; Business Representative Shawn Cirkiel

1. **Call to order.** Co-chair Claire Mathias called the meeting of the CAC to order at 5:32pm.
2. **CAC Training Video.** Ms. Mathias shared the link for this month's CAC training video, "Getting to Know the District Strategic Plan," and encouraged members to view it. The video is available in English and Spanish.
3. **Minutes.** Minutes of the March CAC meeting were approved via email prior to the April meeting and posted to the McCallum website.
4. **Citizens Communication.** No one had registered to speak.
5. **Principal's Report.** Principal Nicole Griffith shared a number of good news items. The McCallum girls' soccer team made the third round of playoffs and are bi-district champions. Mac Journalism took first place in the district and won major awards in the international Quill & Scroll competition; many journalism students also won individual awards. Two McCallum students won national silver medals, representing the top one percent of student artists nationwide. Three students were recognized by the AISD Board of Trustees for academic achievements. Thirteen guitarists advanced to the state competition for solo and ensemble, 23 students advanced to state for orchestra, and many band students also advanced. In addition, several outdoor events have been held at the new Mac Hillside Theater and have been very well received. Senior activities for 2021. Ms. Griffith announced that CAC student representatives Eliana Herrera and Emily Arndt were instrumental in securing Stubb's as a venue for McCallum's outdoor prom; the theme will be Masquerade with all students wearing masks. McCallum's outdoor graduation is scheduled for 7pm, June 1, at House Park Field; each graduating student will be limited to four guests to ensure social distancing. A senior parade followed by a party in Dart Bowl's parking lot is tentatively scheduled for June 2. Preliminary BTO review. Ms. Griffith presented McCallum's preliminary 2021-22 budget, also known as the Basic Table of Organization (BTO), for CAC review. The budget she received from AISD's administration is based entirely on formulas developed by central administration and reflects a districtwide funding shortfall of \$65 million. The major change for McCallum was the loss of the Fine Arts Academy Director/Coordinator position,

necessitating the difficult decision to replace Ms. Ramsay, whose work Ms. Griffith praised, with Mr. Reyes who will now oversee the Academy in his Assistant Principal role. McCallum is an A-rated campus so is staffed at a ratio of 28 students per teacher, and will receive a few additional teachers due to a projected increase in enrollment next year for a total of 1933 students. Ms. Griffith is advocating for additional faculty, particularly for Fine Arts, and has had a productive meeting with the district's head of Fine Arts. In addition, Shelly Goldstein will become the designated Fine Arts counselor next year, though details of that change are still being worked out. The campus clerical and classified staff will remain the same under the draft budget. Funding for supplies for the upcoming year is difficult to project, given that so much of the current year was devoted to remote learning, but Ms. Griffith is committed to supporting each department's needs. Ms. Griffith noted that the budget is still subject to change and will share all budget documents with CAC members. CAC members expressed concerns that the central administration may be cutting Fine Arts instruction throughout the district in favor of more standardized testing, and noted that the Austin community strongly supports the creative arts, not just for McCallum but for every student. Miscellaneous items. Ms. Griffith will send an email to families on April 6 encouraging students to return to school on April 12th and finish the school year in person. Every member of the McCallum staff has had the opportunity to receive a Covid vaccination and strong safety protocols continue to be in place. Campus tours will be available for 9th graders who have not yet attended in person. April 6 is also the date of the first state-mandated End of Course (EOC) exam, which the state is requiring all students to take in person. Ms. Griffith expects approximately 90 percent of current McCallum 9th graders will be present for the exam, and plans to use every room and all staff members to ensure as much social distancing as possible. Ms. Griffith said she expects most students to return in person by the fall, but that a virtual option will still be available though district leaders have not yet provided details.

7. Adjourn. There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:34pm.