

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)

McCallum Library
5600 Sunshine Drive
September 19, 2022

MINUTES

Present: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Andrea Rogers, Ken Rogers, Joseph Carcione, Elaine Bohls-Graham, Rachel Murray, Margaret Smith; Parent Representatives Viva Garza, Ashli Pate, Carlene Wegmann Todd, Alexis Pruitt, Kerren Campa, Amanda Braziel, Kate Hayes; Business Representative Bria Cirkiel; Community Representative Susan Moffat; Visitors Emily Speight, Faye Holland, Nisha Rocap, Jay Howard.

1. Welcome & Call to Order. Faculty co-chair Rachel Murray called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:50pm, welcomed everyone, and announced that the CAC plans to meet fully in person this year for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

2. Minutes. Minutes of the May CAC meeting were approved via email prior to the September meeting and posted to the McCallum website.

3. Co-chair Elections. Joe Carcione nominated Ashli Pate to serve as CAC Parent Co-Chair for the 2022-23 school year, with Alexis Pruitt seconding. Ms. Pate was approved as Parent Co-chair by a unanimous voice vote. Margaret Smith nominated Rachel Murray to serve as CAC Faculty Co-Chair for the 2022-23 school year, with Alexis Pruitt seconding. Ms. Murray was approved as Faculty Co-chair by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Introductions. New and returning CAC members and visitors briefly introduced themselves.

5. Principal's Report. Principal Nicole Griffith offered the following report.
Good News. The school year is off to a positive start with feelings of normalcy returning to campus. Despite national teacher shortages, McCallum was fully staffed by July with some strong new teachers, though a few teacher assistants are still needed. Enrollment exceeded projections resulting in one additional teacher allocation for the campus. McCallum's football team has had two great games in a row, and the volleyball team is still undefeated in the district. Theater recently wrapped the last performance of the musical Descendants, which was very successful. McCallum has received a grant from the Austin Ed Fund to support the Neurosequential Model for Educators, which will provide training to help teachers better understand student behavior and performance. Many other great projects and activities are underway throughout the school.

Policy Changes. McCallum will change its final exam waiver program, created in response to the pandemic, to a final exam incentive program this year. All students will still be required to take a final, per AISD Board policy, but students who are eligible for a final exam incentive cannot get a lower grade than their existing grade, no matter how

they score on the final. Students in 9th and 10th grades may apply for one final exam incentive per semester, students in 11th grade may apply for two per semester, and seniors may apply for three per semester. Eligibility for a final exam incentive is dependent on grades, attendance, and behavior. Eligible students must be passing the course for which the incentive is sought with at least a 70; cannot have more than ten total tardies, including Advisory; must have maintained 90% attendance for the course and for Advisory; and may not have had any at-home suspensions, in-school suspensions, or been placed in the district's Alternative Learning Center. Under the incentive program, final exam grades will be calculated using the average of the two 9-week grading periods of the semester, unless a student scores higher than that number on final exam in which case the final grade will be recalculated to reflect that increase. An AP test is considered a final exam; AP students will still be required to come in for attendance purposes during finals but will not have to take an additional exam. College level classes are not eligible for final exam incentives. Ms. Griffith also announced that she will bring a proposal to the CAC in October regarding potential changes to the National Honor Society program.

Mac Showcase Changes. In the past, the McCallum Showcase has been limited to the Fine Arts Academy, but this year will expand to allow 8th graders the opportunity to explore all of McCallum's offerings. Scheduled for the evening of November 14, the Mac Showcase will be open to any student who wants to explore McCallum as an option, and will include current students talking to 8th graders about the school's different programs. McCallum is currently open to curriculum transfers for the Fine Arts Academy, as well as priority transfers, which include sibling transfers, tracking transfers, and majority-to-minority transfers. Students may also apply for general transfers though there is no guarantee these will be accepted.

New Freshman Transition Program. Ms. Griffith reported that McCallum is trying to up its game on freshman transition and provide more leadership opportunities for older students. To that end, McCallum will begin to implement a national program called the Boomerang Project starting next fall. Training and recruitment will begin this year, with the goal of recruiting approximately 85-90 rising juniors and seniors who will serve as leaders in the new program, helping to ensure a positive transition for freshmen, including SpEd students, into high school. Details are available at <https://boomerangproject.com> program.

SAFE Alliance. McCallum's partnership with the SAFE Alliance is ramping up. Graphic design students will create posters to help connect students with free services available to anyone experiencing violence or abuse. For details, visit <https://www.safeaustin.org>

COVID. Cases of Covid on campus have slowed after an initial spike at the start of the school year. It appears the virus will be part of our lives moving forward. Most students are currently unmasked; there is no pressure one way or the other regarding mask wearing.

Hall Passes. McCallum is switching to color coded hall passes this year in order to keep students using restrooms closest to their classrooms, rather than wandering the halls. A different color pass will be used to go to the main office.

AISD Bond. McCallum is on AISD's proposed bond package for \$65 million, which will include a Phase One modernization, as well as improvements for athletics, security, HVAC systems, roofing repair, and technology upgrades. If approved by Austin voters in the November election, the district will begin planning with campus representatives regarding the modernization. More information is available here:
https://bond.austinschools.org/sites/bond.austinschools.org/files/inline-files/AustinISD_2022Bond_%20SummaryTable_v3.pdf

6. Citizens Communication. In response to a question about vaping or smoking in school restrooms, Principal Griffith stated that McCallum continues its work to detect vaping and smoking on school property and to educate students about the risks. Students should use another bathroom if they discover someone smoking or vaping and will not get in trouble for having the wrong color hall pass; they should also report such activity to school staff. A parent suggested that AISD needs to improve communication regarding summer and after-school programs; her daughter had signed up for a girls' STEM program this past summer, but it was cancelled due to low enrollment. A parent asked if students should voice concerns if they are aware of a problem happening on another campus, as was recently the case with a threat called into Akins High School, which was apparently part of a national hoax. Ms. Griffith replied that students should always feel welcome to voice concerns, noting that the administration will always communicate with students and families if an incident has anything to do with McCallum.

7. CAC Training. Co-chair Rachel Murray shared AISD's CAC web page, which provides a different training focus and resources each month. September's focus is on the purpose of the CAC. For more information, visit <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/cac>

8. Adjourn. There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:44pm.