

**McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)  
March 1, 2021**

**MINUTES**

Present via Zoom: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Elaine Bohls-Graham, Andrea Rogers, Nicole Sorto, Rachel Murray, Kristen Wachsmann, Megan Susong; Student Representative Olivia Navarro; Parent Representatives Claire Mathias, Bria Cirkiel, Holly Eaton, Kevin Foster, Laura Dooley, Carlene Wegman Todd, Lisa Alverson; Community Representative Susan Moffat.

**1. Call to Order.** Co-Chair Claire Mathias called meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:33pm.

**2. Austin ISD Training Videos.** Ms. Mathias shared links for AISD training videos on Effective Meeting Facilitation in English and Spanish.

**3. Minutes.** Minutes of the February CAC meeting were approved by email vote prior to the March meeting and posted to the McCallum website.

**4. Citizen Communication.** No one present wished to speak.

**5. Principal's Report.** Acting Principal Nicole Griffith began her report by sharing good news on a variety of fronts. McCallum's baseball team won its first tournament. McCallum's orchestra was invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators' conference and did an excellent job. Both boys' and girls' swim teams qualified for state; the boys' team has already placed in numerous events and the girls will have their chance this weekend. The boys' basketball team had a great season and finished as bi-district champions. The Blue Brigade dance team won many awards.

Outdoor stage. Ms. Griffith shared photos of McCallum's new outdoor stage, which will be called the Mac Hillside Theater. The grand opening will include a ribbon cutting.

Post-storm facilities update. Ms. Griffith showed photos of campus storm damage, including major leaks inside the boiler room and some external damage with water pouring out of broken pipes. Fortunately, the water drained outward as designed and did not drain into instructional areas. Most of the campus is operating normally, though water is still out in some parts of the school. A couple of the boilers are still not functioning, but are being worked on.

Budget update. AISD administration has pushed the budget process back again, but Ms. Griffith expects to receive McCallum's BTO tomorrow. AISD is facing an overall budget crunch as enrollment in the district has dropped by roughly 5000 students. District leaders are facing a difficult financial picture, but will try to make decisions based on equity and school enrollment. McCallum's projected enrollment for 2021-22 is higher than the current year, which should enable the school to retain current staff, though some tightening will be necessary. Ms. Griffith stressed that McCallum will do its best to ensure all students have the opportunities they want and need. She plans to work creatively with the master schedule to ensure minimal impacts to students and will update CAC in April.

Career and Technology Education (CTE). Ms. Griffith reported that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has implemented changes in CTE structure, terminology, and funding. What were previously called "pathways" are now called "programs of study" and Journalism no longer qualifies for CTE funding. Ms. Griffith noted that, because of McCallum's focus on fine arts, it likely has the smallest CTE program among AISD high schools. CTE areas at McCallum include business/finance, engineering, and audio/video. McCallum also has a large graphic design program, but it is not currently a four-year program as required under CTE. However, the TEA will now allow some CTE classes to be taught at the middle school level so McCallum has the chance to work with its feeder middle schools; if students can start CTE graphic design in middle school, for example, they could then finish a four-year program with three years at McCallum. McCallum already offers two of the four classes for the CTE exercise/wellness program and may look to expand this area in the future. Ms. Griffith provided the link to approved CTE programs of study on the TEA website.

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/approved-cte-programs-of-study>

Professional Development. The second day of McCallum's planned two-part Professional Development program was postponed due to Austin's severe winter storm and widespread power outages. It will be rescheduled.

Staffing Update. Nearly all of McCallum's faculty members have now returned to in-person teaching. A few staff members have accommodations to teach from home or are completing their last vaccines, and some are on unrelated leaves, such as maternity leave. Ms. Griffith emphasized McCallum's strong safety protocols. Only 64 students returned for in-person learning following the winter storm, but she expects that number may rise after spring break. School staff continues to reach out to students who are learning remotely. Because widespread power outages coincided with the end of the grading period, some students have expressed concerns about their grades due to the inability to complete assignments or turn in work remotely. McCallum was required to

enter grades for this period, but is calling them “soft grades”; students will have until March 5 to turn in any missing work and have their grades adjusted.

In response to questions, Ms. Griffith said that most AISD high schools are still experiencing low numbers of in-person students. McCallum’s faculty is still teaching via Zoom and in-person simultaneously, which continues to be challenging, but have been given as much flexibility as possible to do what’s best for their subject areas. She noted that McCallum is one of the few AISD schools that is fully staffed for teachers at this time. While standardized tests are a limited measurement, McCallum did extremely well on mid-year benchmark tests and was the only AISD high school to score above average in all subject areas. Ms. Griffith also reported that McCallum’s kitchen staff has been doing an outstanding job as one of the main schools providing lunches and multiple meals on weekends for families who need them. The custodial staff also went above and beyond their normal duties in addressing winter storm damage to the campus.

**5. Adjourn.** There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:10pm.