

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
McCallum Library
5600 Sunshine Drive
April 4, 2022

MINUTES

Present: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Andrea Rogers, Joseph Carcione, Elaine Bohls-Graham, Rachel Murray; Parent Representatives Viva Garza, Kate Hayes, Kerren Campa, Lisa Alverson, Carlene Wegmann Todd, Amanda Braziel, Ashli Pate; Student Representative Ariana Mendez; Community Representative Susan Moffat.

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order.** Co-chair Rachel Murray called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:50pm.
- 2. Minutes.** Minutes of the March CAC meeting were approved via email prior to the April meeting and posted to the McCallum website.
- 3. Principal's Report.** Principal Nicole Griffith shared the following information.

Good News. Three McCallum students were nationally recognized for their visual artwork, including two National Gold Key award winners, who will be honored at Carnegie Hall, and one National Silver Key award winner. All McCallum music groups won top marks at recent competitions. McCallum girls' and boys' soccer teams both won district titles. The Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association recently ranked McCallum's baseball team second in the state. McCallum runners did very well at the Texas Relays, with one student recording the fastest time in the country in one event. A McCallum student won a Special Jury Recognition Award for Artistic Expression at this year's SXSW Film Festival. McCallum Journalism won the international Quill and Scroll award for the fourth year in a row.

2022-23 Campus Budget. Ms. Griffith provided an overview of the McCallum campus budget for the 2022-23 school year, and opened the floor for questions and comments. As background, she explained that

AISD is facing a large budget deficit due to state-mandated funding formulas and Texas' recapture system for school financing. She also noted that campus budgets rely on two major funding sources: 199 funding, which accounts for the majority of staffing and non-staffing expenses, and CCMR (College, Career, and Military Readiness) funding, which provides a smaller amount.

To address budget deficits, AISD has changed its high school staffing formula from one teacher per 28 students to one teacher per 29 students (Special Ed is funded separately and is not subject to the same staffing formulas). The district has also reduced the extra staffing formula for low-income students. Additionally, McCallum will no longer receive four extra teacher allotments for Fine Arts, though Ms. Griffith has been able to make up two of these positions, and is no longer funded for a Fine Arts Coordinator, a position that had already been cut in the current year's budget.

The bulk of McCallum's 1099 funds will be used to support staff positions. But as a result of district budget deficits and formula changes, McCallum's professional staff will be reduced to 109 positions next year, down from 118 in the current year. McCallum will also lose one assistant principal and one counselor. Ms. Griffith emphasized that she is trying to accommodate these cuts through attrition and that any McCallum employees who are cut will be put in the district's priority placement pool for positions on other campuses.

Ms. Griffith stressed that all teaching decisions were made based on an analysis of student choice sheets and course tallies. Most departments will lose 1-2 teachers, though departments that are currently understaffed will not be cut. Despite the loss of additional funding for four Fine Arts positions, she is only cutting two (one each from orchestra and choir) and is working with Lamar Middle School to develop a Fine Arts collaborative to make up for the cut positions with a shared teaching model. Visual arts will add one teacher due to the extremely high number of students who have signed up for those courses.

Ms. Griffith acknowledged the pain of these decisions and stressed that she is trying to be as flexible and creative as possible to ensure students and teachers get what they need. She lauded McCallum's excellent staff and assured CAC members that every section will be covered. Despite

cuts, McCallum still has the strongest Fine Arts program in AISD with eight music teachers, six visual arts teachers, two dance teachers, two theater teachers and more. She acknowledged that it is her job to make difficult decisions, but given the current budget constraints, she believes this is a solid plan and hopes more funding may return in the future.

McCallum's non-staffing budget will remain roughly the same, at \$140,000 or just \$78 per student for the entire school year. This funding must cover required staff development, copier rental, general and departmental supplies, and anything else needed to operate the school. Ms. Griffith noted that some departments do receive additional non-staff funding from other district offices.

McCallum's CCMR funds will be down to \$170,000 for 2022-23, a significant drop the \$270,000 provided for the current school year. CCMR funds may only be used for CCMR purposes, which will include a college and career advisor and a project specialist. These funds are awarded based on the number of students who demonstrate college readiness through their scores on SAT, AP, or TSI tests, many of which dipped during the pandemic. In response to a parent comment that it seemed counterintuitive to reduce funding for struggling students, Ms. Griffith explained that these decisions come from the Texas Education Agency. McCallum recently held a successful boot camp for TSI testing and hopes to improve student scores in the future. If students can't pass the TSI college readiness test, they are required to take remedial classes in college, which cost money but do not count as college credits, so there is a strong incentive to improve these scores.

McCallum's custodians and security staff will be hired and supervised at the district level, and will no longer be funded through the campus budget, though campus administrators will continue to work closely with them.

After discussion and review, CAC members signed the form acknowledging that they had received an overview of the 2022-2023 campus budget as required.

4. Citizens Communications. A representative of the McCallum Orchestra Booster Club expressed concern and heartbreak about the lost orchestra teaching position. Ms. Griffith said that she hadn't been able to

speak to parents about this yet, because she had to talk with the affected teacher and the CAC first. But she is hopeful the new Fine Arts collaborative with Lamar MS will address many of these concerns and she will now share this information with parents.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business, the CAC adjourned its meeting at 7pm.