

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)

9.14.20

MINUTES

Present via Zoom: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Tamara Stone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Elaine Bohls-Graham, Andrea Rogers (Classified), Nicole Sorto, Rachel Murray (Co-chair), Megan Susong (SpEd), Heather Ramsay; Student Representatives Eliana Herrera, Sophie Lewis, Emily Arndt, Olivia Navarro; Parent Representatives Claire Mathias (Co-chair), Bria Cirkiel (PTA), Holly Eaton, Desiree Lang, Laura Dooley, Patricia Traicoff, Viva Garza, Carlene Wegman Todd; Community Representatives Susan Moffat (Secretary), Laura Yeager; Business Representative Shawn Cirkiel; Visitors Michael Riley (parent), Jacob Henson (student).

1. **Call to Order.** Co-chair Elaine Bohls-Graham called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:34pm. A quorum was present. Ms. Bohls-Graham welcomed new members and announced that CAC training presentations are available in English and Spanish on the AISD website.
<https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/cac/resources>.
2. **Officer Elections.** Ms. Bohls-Graham opened the floor for CAC officer nominations for the 2020-21 school year. Rachel Murray was nominated to serve as faculty co-chair (Susan Moffat, nomination; Bria Cirkiel, second) and Claire Mathias was nominated to continue as parent co-chair (Holly Easton, nomination; Nicole Sorto, second). Nicole Sorto then moved to approve Rachel Murray and Claire Mathias to serve as this year's CAC co-chairs (Holly Eaton 2nd). The new officers were approved by a unanimous voice vote with one abstention. Susan Moffat will continue as CAC secretary.
3. **Public Comment.** No one present wished to speak.
4. **Campus Improvement Plan (CIP).** Principal Nicole Griffith reported she is working on the draft CIP and will have it ready for review at the October CAC meeting.
5. **School Reopening.** Principal Griffith provided an overview of McCallum's reopening plan and answered questions from CAC members. She stressed that primary concerns were ensuring safety, maintaining connections with students and providing strong instruction while adhering to all TEA and AISD requirements. Every class will offer a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Under the umbrella of MacConnect, McCallum has started a Round Table program, in which each teacher serves as an advocate for approximately 20+ students; Round Tables are currently meeting every day, but will likely scale back to weekly check-ins as the year progresses. Round Tables will also host student-led equity circles. McCallum is currently scheduled to start hosting in-person Learning Groups beginning October 6. Students who opt into a Learning Group will be allowed to attend school on campus, but will still be

taking only online curriculum with lunch in the classroom, masks required at all times and no passing periods. Principal Griffith stressed that Learning Groups are intended to provide an option for students who, for whatever reason, are not able to be successful with at-home learning; students who are successfully learning at home will probably want to continue doing so until campus life is able to return to something approaching normalcy. If the number of students who want to attend in-person Learning Groups exceeds the capacity recommended by local health authorities, McCallum will be forced to implement a hybrid plan where students attend on alternating days. Any person entering the campus for any reason will be screened for symptoms, including a temperature check at the door. Teachers are required to be masked at all times while on campus unless they are teaching alone in a classroom with the door closed and a sign warning that they are unmasked. Extracurricular activities are still a work in progress. Most athletics have been allowed to start including football, volleyball, cross-country, tennis, cheerleading and swimming. Fine Arts extracurricular activities, which include Blue Brigade, are not allowed to begin until October 6th (McCallum is appealing the hold on Blue Brigade). Teachers who choose to teach from their school classrooms will still be delivering online curriculum only. Several parents expressed concerns about the time homework is taking in the evening after students have already been on Zoom for many hours of classes. Principal Griffith noted that, unfortunately, the TEA has not changed requirements for TEKS or STAAR this year and that teachers are struggling to cover all required areas while striking a sustainable balance for students. Both Zoom and homework are areas the campus leadership team is thinking hard about. In response to a parent question about attendance, Principal Griffith stated that McCallum is requiring Round Table attendance, though Round Table won't be counted toward official attendance under TEA rules, which require a certain number of minutes of synchronous classroom instruction for a student to be counted present. Despite the TEA's convoluted attendance requirements for remote learning, attendance has been good so far this year. In response to a parent question about cameras, the principal stated that McCallum encourages students to turn on their cameras in Zoom classes, but may not require it.

- 6. Professional Development.** Principal Griffith reported that McCallum staff completed three weeks of professional development to prepare for the start of the school year. Topics included safety, best practices, technology, communication, community building, logistics, and a student equity panel. Staff also participated in "Operation Call-All-the-Kids Day" in which teachers ensured that every McCallum student was contacted by phone; with some conversations lasting as much as an hour, it made for a long hard day, but was very worthwhile and enabled staff to identify potential issues before the first day of remote learning. In other professional development news, Assistant Principal Tamara Stone has written a successful grant for nearly \$10,000 to provide a program called Cognito, which trains staff on the best ways to connect students with appropriate resources if they come to teachers with a problem. McCallum's next Professional Development Day is scheduled for October 12.

7. **Communication.** Principal Griffith has started sending a daily newsletter to school staff. She noted that the MacKnightly News and Mac Journalism already do a good job of keeping families informed, and that AISD is working on a phone app to increase communication. In response to a student question about daily announcements, Ms. Griffith suggested setting up a YouTube channel for this purpose. Student representative Emily Arndt also suggested asking teachers to include their preferred pronouns with their names on Zoom. Ms. Griffith said she would encourage this and will add it as a discussion item in upcoming training.
8. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:35pm.