

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
September 17, 2018
McCallum Library

MINUTES

Attending:

Administrative Representatives: Principal Mike Garrison, Assistant Principal Tammy Stone.

Teacher/Staff Representatives: Stephen Burnette (co-chair), Jane Farmer, July Rigby (Special Ed), Andrea Rogers (Classified), Elaine Bohls-Graham, Matthew Whipple, Margaret Smith, Nicole Sorto.

Student Representatives: Nicholas Heinen.

Parent Representatives: Anne Heinen (Co-chair), Holly Eaton, Claire Mathias, Laura Yeager, Laura Dooley.

Community Representative: Susan Moffat (Secretary).

Community Members/Guests: Molly Bray, Jennifer Richmond, Heather Ramsey, Nancy Sailer, Shannon Sandres, Bergan Casey, Patricia Graves, Paula Fracasso, Susie Bryan.

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Co-chairs Stephen Burnette and Anne Heinen called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:30pm and led introductions of all attendees.
2. **Minutes Approved.** Minutes of the April 2018 meeting were approved by e-vote prior to the end of the last school year and are available on the CAC website.
3. **Orientation Session for Notification of Human Sexuality and Responsibility.** McCallum's Health teacher Nancy Searle reviewed AISD's policy regarding the sexual health unit, which is part of the district's Health curriculum. Health is a required class for graduation in AISD, but parents may request that their student opt out of the sexual health unit, and a letter is sent to parents in advance of the unit advising them of this option. AISD is an abstinence-based district, meaning its first focus is on abstinence, though contraception is also discussed. The curriculum begins with a relationship unit and then moves on to sexual health, with both units combined taking approximately three weeks. The 400-page sexual health curriculum is available for review online in the McCallum library, and is the same curriculum taught in all AISD high schools. Ms. Searle distributed copies of the opt-out letter, as well as a sign-up sheet for CAC members who would like to schedule a time to review the curriculum online in the library. Mr. Garrison will also call a general parent meeting on the sexual health unit for any McCallum parents seeking more information. The district's policy, including the opt out letter, is available here:
<https://www.austinisd.org/pe-health/health-education>
4. **Past and Current Enrollment.** Mr. Garrison reported that McCallum's current enrollment is 1785 students, nearly identical to last year and very close to the projected enrollment of 1790. Based on enrollment, Mr. Garrison does not anticipate any changes in the number of faculty.

5. **Review Safety Updates.** Mr. Garrison reported that last year, in the wake of national school violence incidents, McCallum began limiting access to campus buildings by locking exterior doors except those needed for classroom and restroom access. McCallum is scheduled to receive electronic swiping devices for exterior doors and a buzz-in system for the main entrance, though the installation date is not known at this time. Once these devices are installed all exterior doors will be locked during school hours, except during passing periods. Teachers in portable classrooms will be given a card swipe that students may use to access restrooms in the main buildings. The card swipes will be attached to a large object so they cannot be pocketed; they will be programmed to only open doors during school hours and can be shut off electronically should one go missing. Mr. Garrison asked for thoughts about whether to strictly enforce students wearing school badges and received mixed feedback from CAC attendees; he will check with other AISD high schools on this issue, but noted that if the district decides to enforce a strict badge policy for students, McCallum must comply. He also stressed the importance of all adults wearing badges when on school grounds, especially visitors. In response to questions about security and mental health, Mr. Garrison stated that teachers pay attention to any student behavior that seems out of the norm and report this to schools counselors. McCallum has presented programs on cyber bullying and suicide prevention, and continues to teach Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) as do all AISD schools. State recommendations on school safety are likely to be forthcoming. The CAC will revisit safety and security issues throughout the year.
6. **Update on Budget Stabilization Task Force.** Susan Moffat provided an update on the district's Budget Stabilization Task Force, a 31-member advisory body established this past summer by AISD to explore ways to address the district's growing budget deficit, itself the result of the state's broken school finance system. In July, local media reported that the district's Chief Financial Officer suggested that the district could save "millions" by cutting fine arts academies, noting that state law did not require them. Ms. Moffat attended the most recent task force meeting and spoke during the public comment portion to share with the task force the following information. The McCallum Fine Arts Academy receives just \$328,000 per year in additional funding, largely for faculty salaries. The Academy also attracts students back to the district from private, charter and home schools – 68 students currently - each of whom brings per-pupil funding back with them. Multiplied by McCallum's annual per-pupil funding allotment, this means the Academy currently brings \$486,812 back to AISD per year – over \$150,000 more than the program costs the district to run. Ms. Moffat reported that task force members seemed appreciative of this information and that it did not appear that the McCallum Fine Arts Academy was in imminent danger, though she emphasized the need keep a close eye on developments as the task force continues its work. More information about the Budget Stabilization Task Force is available here: <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/bstf>
7. **EOC Scores.** Mr. Garrison briefly reviewed McCallum's state-mandated End of Course (EOC) exam scores from spring 2018, noting that McCallum's pass rates had improved from the previous year. McCallum's 2018 overall scores were: Algebra I, 90; Biology, 96; ELA I, 89; ELA 2, 86; US History, 97. He stated that, while

McCallum is proud of these achievements, standardized test scores are not the school's goal. Rather it is to provide students with an excellent education, with good test scores the natural result.

8. **AP Exam Pass Rate.** Mr. Garrison reported that McCallum's overall Advanced Placement (AP) pass rates (scores of 3 or above) continue to hold steady and are among the highest in the district.
9. **Accountability Ratings.** Mr. Garrison reported that McCallum received a "Met Standard" rating under the state's accountability system. He noted that this past school year was the last year the state will use those designations for campuses, and will move to an A-F grading system for campuses beginning in the spring of 2019. As part of this transition, the TEA developed number grades (0-100) for each campus this year to indicate the letter grade they would have received under A-F. In that context, McCallum earned a 92 this year, which would be an A. Next year, campuses will get both a letter grade and a number grade. Districts received both letter and number grades this year, and Austin ISD was rated B with an 89. See <https://txschools.org/schools/227901005/overview>
10. **Upcoming Meeting.** Co-chair Anne Heinen announced that the next CAC meeting will be held Monday, October 1, 5:30pm-6:30pm, in the McCallum Library. At that time, new co-chairs will be elected. Claire Mathias has expressed an interest in running for the parent co-chair position.
11. **Adjourn.** There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:45pm.