

## **McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting**

November 1, 2021

McCallum Library and via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Present: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Rachel Murray, Andrea Rogers, Kenneth Rogers, Elaine Bohls-Graham, Joe Carcione, Margaret Smith; Student Representative Ariana Mendez; Parent Representatives Carlene Wegmann Todd, Lisa Alverson, Alexis Pruitt, Viva Garza, Kate Hayes, Amanda Holleman; Visitor Ashli Pate; Community Representative Susan Moffat.

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order.** Co-chair Lisa Alverson called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:47pm.
- 2. Minutes.** Minutes of the September CAC meetings were approved by email prior to the November meeting and posted to the McCallum website.
- 3. New Student CAC Members.** Co-chair Rachel Murray introduced the CAC's new student representative Ariana Mendez. Bobby Currie will also serve as a CAC student representative this year, but was absent to participate in the state band competition.
- 4. Principal's Report.** *Good News.* Principal Nicole Griffith reported that the McCallum Band gave an outstanding performance at the state competition and will know soon whether they have made it to the finals. A McCallum runner has advanced to state and will compete this Friday. Mac Tennis was named bi-district champion, Mac Volleyball is in the playoffs, and Mac Football appears poised to be a second seed in playoffs.

Mac Journalism is a finalist for the National Scholastic Press Association's prestigious Pacemaker Award and has had 18 photos selected as finalists for the association's Photo of the Year Award. McCallum is now a Covid testing hub for the entire vertical team; AISD has hired an outside partner to conduct testing in the Mac Theater lobby.

*School Transition.* Ms. Griffith reported that a feeling of normalcy has begun to return over the past month as Austin entered Stage 3 pandemic guidelines. Students are adjusting well to being back on campus, and lower Covid rates have allowed the return of several campus traditions, including Pink Week, which recently raised a record amount for breast cancer research. Pep rallies have been held outdoors, but this Thursday will move indoors with the traditional parade through the hallway to the gym. Pep rallies are optional and students who do not wish to participate for any reason are welcome to remain in their classrooms.

*SCA Data.* AISD is now requiring Short Cycle Assessments (SCA), which are optional under the state-mandated STAAR testing system. McCallum performed very well overall on the SCAs, showing particular strength in Algebra 1 and English 2. Ms. Griffith emphasized that the school experience is so much more than standardized test results in five subjects. She praised McCallum's teachers who are working hard to ensure student success across the board.

*Visitor Feedback.* AISD has begun holding its Friday administrative leadership meetings on school campuses. McCallum recently hosted two such meetings, which included walk-throughs of the school during classes. AISD leadership offered great feedback and was particularly impressed with McCallum's level of student engagement. Ms. Griffith reported that the air conditioning went out in the library during one of the

leadership meetings, which was unfortunate but allowed district administrators to experience McCallum's facility conditions firsthand.

Neighborhood Issues. Ms. Griffith reported that at least one neighbor complained on the NextDoor platform about students engaging in questionable behavior off campus during school hours. Only seniors are allowed off campus during lunch, but McCallum has numerous exits so it is not easy to control other students leaving. Ms. Griffith is placing staff members at strategic locations on campus to help address the problem, and wrote a response to the NextDoor post apologizing for student behavior and advising people to call 911 or 311 if they observe any illegal activity off campus. Ms. Griffith emphasized that the vast majority of McCallum students are behaving well, but that teenagers do not always make good choices. On the plus side, many neighbors noted how much they enjoyed hearing the McCallum Band's outdoor practices. She encouraged CAC members to think about positive ways to reach out to school neighbors.

Freshman Activities During PSAT. While older students recently took PSAT tests, McCallum's 9<sup>th</sup> graders received valuable mental health training from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). In addition, leaders from the senior class visited every freshman classroom to talk about McCallum's inclusive school culture and were heartened by the response, calling this year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders "amazing."

**5. Citizens Communications.** No one present wished to speak.

**6. Adjourn.** There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:20pm (motion, Elaine Bohls-Graham; second, Amanda Holleman).