

Austin High School Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
Thursday, May 28, 2015
5:30 P.M. in the Library

Present: Kathy Ryan, AISD Interim Associate Superintendent for High Schools, CAC co-chair Cathy K. Smith, CAC co-chair John Dagar, CAC secretary Greta Gonzales, Hannah Neill, Fred Campillo, Diane Harrison, Isabelle Salazar, Barbara Scroggie Knaggs, Drew Calver, Lisa Christian, Amy Moore, Jeanette Smiecinski, Kerri Ault, Craig Bennett, Anne Marie V Ocasio, Anita Nunez, Jill Scott, Lori MacNeill, Martin Lizarraga,.

Call to Order: John Dagar began the mtg by welcoming those in attendance. Stated that we need 14 to make a quorum and we have it today

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

New Business

Reviewing steps in the search of a new principal: Kathy Ryan, AISD Interim Associate Superintendent for High Schools handed out and reviewed the AISD PRINCIPAL SELECTION PROCESS document (Approved December 2014). In addition it was mailed out to parents of AHS students (Current Freshmen, Sophmores, Juniors, and incoming parents of 8th graders). Kathy provided a DRAFT copy of the timeline of the selection process to be released. Kathy emphasized that parents can provide feedback before the June 2, 2015 meeting by emailing to Dr. Thyron Hurst, Director of High School Operations at thyrum.hurst@austinisd.org. AISD administrator, Tammy Williams facilitates all the hiring, she receives the initial applications and completes a thorough and extensive background search of each candidate, including contacting all references and perusing media and social media.

Cathy Smith commented that the proposed timeline was too tight. Diane Harrison agreed. Jeanette Smiecinski asked a question about selecting an interim vs. permanent Principal. Lori MacNeill had a follow-up comment and question. Kathy Ryan stated that Dr. Cruz, Mr. Oropez and Ms. Ryan would make the decision choice of an interim Principal if more time was needed. General discussion took place regarding consideration of how an interim Principal is considered. Comment that our soon-to-be-former principal was interim for one year. Kathy Ryan affirmed that the ideal process would be to select and hire the actual principal. Ms. Ryan provided the following criteria considered for selecting a principal: Leadership style, communication style, personal qualities, school and community relations, education and experience, academic leadership.

Barbara Knaggs and Keri Ault spoke about a longer process for parent input. Diane Harrison requested that data from 3 years ago should be considered and John Dagar presented the last School Leadership Profile draft. John stated that Kerri Ault photographed each of the faculty input panels from the last principal selection discussion and this is available to us. Craig Bennett and Kerri Ault spoke about the process of choosing a parent and whether or not the parent needs to come from the members of the CAC. John and Cathy shared past experience of selecting a parent rep via an application process and a CAC subcommittee vote. Greta Gonzales asked and Cathy responded about the criteria of selecting parent representation. John asked if there were any broader questions. John stated that our general concern appears to be about the timeline. Kathy Ryan proposed different dates to extend the process. Cathy stated that in her opinion the June 1 and June 2 meetings should continue as scheduled with Faculty and Parents. Cathy requested more time for community input than one evening meeting on June 2. After discussion, it was agreed that Cathy will have an additional announcement published to AHS community and vertical team feeder schools about the June 2 Community meeting as well as an additional week to email comments to Cathy or John for sharing with Kathy Ryan and her team prior to the publishing of the AHS School Leadership Profile. Kathy Ryan made immediate adjustments to the timeline to be released based on CAC feedback. Diane Harrison, Kathy Ryan and John Dagar supported that the Austin High principal position is a highly coveted position and we should have outstanding candidates. Cathy stated that a parent rep and alternate parent rep should be selected and all agreed.

Process of Choosing Parent Representative/s

Extensive discussion on the process and the basis for selecting parent representatives and a timeline. Parent applications should be submitted to Renee Fairchild by June 8th. A CAC Subcommittee to choose a parent rep will meet on June 10th. A motion was made, seconded, voted on and received majority approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.