

McCallum Campus Advisory Council
September 11, 2017
McCallum Library
5600 Sunshine

Present: Holly Eaton, Stephen Burnette, Paul Sweeney, Liz Kline, Mike Garrison, Jane Farmer, Susan Moffat, Kevin Foster, Gabe Reyes, Julie Rigby, Ellen Grady-Sessa.

1. Call to order and introductions. Assistant Principal Gabe Reyes called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:30pm and led introductions.

2. Campus Dashboard. CAC members reviewed the campus dashboard. McCallum has a current enrollment of 1776. Ninth grade is slightly smaller than usual, which may be partially due to the district's decision to end tracking transfers from Kealing and Lamar. The percentage of African-American students at McCallum has declined over the last few years, mirroring the overall shrinkage of Austin's African-American population. Special Education enrollment at McCallum is also slightly down. McCallum is focused on keeping lower level English and Algebra classes as small as possible to lay a solid foundation in these subjects, while upper level classes may be slightly larger. Overall, McCallum continues to strive for an inclusive environment in which all students feel supported and academically challenged.

3. Parent Survey. CAC members reviewed results of the district's parent survey. McCallum had a slightly higher response rate than the average AISD high school, and showed high scores for interactions with school staff and generally good scores overall in line with other campuses. Members discussed the need to raise awareness of Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, as many parents are unfamiliar with this term; these include audio/visual, robotics, engineering courses, etc. AISD is continuing its districtwide class-sharing program, now in its second year, and about 20 McCallum students are currently using the program to take classes at other campuses, though logistics remain somewhat challenging.

4. TEA 2017 Ratings. CAC members reviewed McCallum's 2017 TEA Accountability System and Ratings. McCallum met all state standards for 2017 and earned 5 of 7 possible distinctions. Due to issues with the state's new A-F rating system (which no one seems able to explain coherently, least of all the legislators who voted for it), McCallum managed to earn *both an F and a distinction* for Postsecondary Readiness. CAC members noted that the A-F rating system won't actually count for campuses until 2019, but the rollout so far does not inspire great confidence. In this year's trial phase, very few schools received A's and good scores were largely limited to very wealthy, predominantly white campuses. Districts (as opposed to campuses) will come under the new A-F ratings this academic year and the general feeling is that AISD will be okay, despite the confusion and shortcomings accompanying this new state ratings tool.

CAC members also discussed a new state law that allows local school districts to adopt their own accountability systems. Under this law, a district that is currently rated C or

above may devise its own criteria for up to 50% of its accountability rating, subject to TEA approval. Criteria may include fine arts, community engagement, or other key elements that are omitted from standardized testing. AISD is exploring whether it makes sense to pursue this option, assuming it meets the eligibility requirements.

5. Upcoming School Bond Election. CAC Members reviewed items for McCallum in the proposed school bond, which will be on the ballot for Austin voters in the November 7 election. If the bond passes, McCallum will receive Fine Arts additions, fire and intrusion alarm upgrades, security camera and security system replacements, HVAC improvements, drainage improvements, and technology upgrades including computer lab/technology/network improvements, student mobile computers and faculty computers. District employees may not advocate for the bond, but may present factual information.

View McCallum's bond projects here:

https://www.aecomconnect.com/AISD_FCA/Docs/DraftBondScenario/HighSchools/AISD_Bond%20Planning_McCallum%20HS_A3.pdf

View bond projects by campus here:

<https://www.aecomconnect.com/AISD/bondscenario.html>

Find more school bond information here:

<https://www.austinisd.org/bond>

6. Other Business. The CAC will begin its review of McCallum's Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) next month. Assistant Principal Larry Featherstone will send the draft CIP out before the October meeting. AISD's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) staff would like to present an evening screening at McCallum of *Screen Acres*, a documentary about managing cell phones and other technology. The screening will be open to the McCallum vertical team, and Assistant Principal Gabe Reyes will announce the time and date as soon as it is confirmed.

7. October Meeting. The McCallum CAC will hold its next meeting Monday, October 2, 5:30-6:30pm in the McCallum Library. All are welcome.

8. Adjourn. There being no further business, the McCallum CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:30pm.

Submitted by
Susan Moffat, CAC Secretary