

Akins Campus Advisory Council Minutes

January 12, 2021

Members Present:

Maureen Gerlofs (Parent/CAC co-chair)
Melinda Van Horn (Staff/ CAC co-Chair)
Lexi Morris (CAC Business Representative)
Trudy Richards (CAC Parent/PTSA President)
Tina Salazar (Principal)
Melissa Contreras (staff)
Alan Brooks (staff)
Connie Miralrio (Parent Support Specialist)
Meg Kozel (SSS Social Worker)
Iswary Martinez (student)
Valerie Treminio (student)
Ethan McBride (staff)
Jamie Huggins (parent)

Observers:

Lexi Morris (A+FCU)
Georgie Morrell (Academy Coordinator)
Nathan Willis (A+FCU)
Steven Gerlofs (Parent)

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Melinda Van Horn.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes:

Melinda Van Horn, without objections I move to post meeting minutes.

Reports:

Principal's Report – presented by Tina Salazar

- Meeting moved to zoom due to the Omicron variant. Uprise in cases happening. School is working to complete close contact tracing and notifying parents. Option to stay if students are vaccinated and asymptomatic. Other options are based on symptoms. (Chart will be added)
- New teachers have been hired. 6 new staff members including science and theater teachers have been hired and have begun working with students.
- Admin continues to monitors the halls and check bathrooms for any signs of

CAC Business- Reviewing TAPR Data

- No TAPR data available from the previous year.
- Campus data is focused on reviewing SCA (SHort Cycle Assessment) scores. ELA 1 and ELA 2 scores are looking strong. Algebra 1 and Biology SCA data shows that there is a need for greater support in math and science. The Biology EOC is very heavily vocabulary based and students tend to struggle with this vocabulary acquisition.

Academy Reports – presented by Melissa Contreras

ABLLE- Academy of Building Leadership and Legal Enterprise:

- Correction Services practicum is preparing for state competition

- 911 practicum is working with 911 call centers to learn about programs and operations
- Court Practicum - Corrections is preparing for state competition.
- JROTC is working on a spring schedule with custodial staff to do a school service activity monthly. They are also preparing and planning for the Military Ball on April 1st and team leadership transition.

AHA- Arts and Humanities Academy:

- Opening night for Akins Journey Theatre production of Freaky Friday the musical is this Thursday!
- We have two new Theatre teachers joining our Fine Arts Department this semester to take over Musical Theatre and Theatre Tech
- Guitar and Orchestra are preparing for All City
- The film program is working in collaboration with Austin Film Festival to teach script writing units in both Film and Creative Writing classes.

GTA- Green Tech Academy:

- Holiday plant sales were a hit, also we have been offering grooming services, and will soon be offering level 1 dog training to a few faculty pets
- FFA students are also gearing up for competition

SSA- Social Services Academy:

- Social Services students sophomores and juniors are currently completing applications for internships next year in Health Science, Education & Training, and Human Services. .

NTA- New Tech Academy:

- New Tech student, Jordyn Aguilar, won the Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards in the Austin Texas Art Region 2022 Scholastic Art Competition.
- Ricardo Villegas, a 2016 graduate from the New Tech Academy, was recently hired to be a junior art director by Neon which is part of the New York City-based Interpublic Group family of advertising companies.
- Mr. Claes' yearbook classes are full steam ahead with the creation of this year's yearbook and it's looking awesome!

STEM- Science Technology Engineering and Math Academy

- Recently STEM seniors had the opportunity to visit the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment in San Marcos. This field trip educated students on environmentally friendly architecture/design and ecology and was sponsored by Ecorise with support from UT.
- Biomedical engineering seniors are putting the finishing touches on their research projects. Students will present these projects to their cooperating teacher from UT and they will compete in the local science fair.
- Students in Principles of Engineering have been working on motorized windmills and are now studying types of bridges.

ECHSA- Early College High School Academy:

- Our first small cohort of seniors (Class of 2022) are starting to receive college acceptances! ACC classes are in full swing!

Counseling Updates- Presented by Melinda Van Horn

- Academy Night is scheduled for January 19th. This will be an opportunity for current and future students to see the different academic pathways and think about which courses they want to sign up for in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Counselors begin middle school course selections throughout January and February. They will be meeting with 9th-11th graders
- January 15th is the priority deadline for FASFA applications. This date will help students qualify for the highest amount of aid available.

Student Support Services- Presented by Meg Kozel

- Two new interns joined the Akins family this semester, Sam and Angela. They will be working towards their Masters Degrees in Social Work at the University of Texas.
- A total of 437 students have received services this school year.
- There will be a total of 5 interns working in the SSS office this semester.

PTSA Report: presented by Trudy Richards, PTSA President

- Successful PTSA meeting yesterday.
- Advocacy is one of the priorities for PTSA this year and we are hoping to get parents to sign up to participate in one of the AISD long range planning committees. There will be a link in the zoom chat
- PTSA will be asking teachers, students, and parents to develop an Akins “needs and wants” priority list to take to the district planning meetings.
- We are currently working to remodel the teacher workroom “zen room”.
- Related to student support, AKins PTSA is working to secure the outdoor picnic tables in the courtyard.
- We are continuing to support student organizations with the offering of grant finds. The application for this is available in the zoom chat and via any PTSA member.
- We will continue to hold our monthly meetings every second Tuesday of the month and will continue to meet virtually via zoom.

Parent Support Specialist (PSS) report presented by Connie Miralrio

- Requests for assistance have risen sharply in recent dates.
- We now have a Parent Support Services Facebook page for parents to make requests and also to post campus updates as well as community events and opportunities. The link to this will be posted on the Akins webpage.
- PSS office can meet with parents via phone and zoom while there are limited options for in-person meetings.

Business/Community Partner: Lexi Morris, A+FCU Branch manager

- A+FCU is back open after the Christmas break.
- Total for cashback rewards for the previous quarter is \$4310.45

- Virtual and in-person class presentations are still available. Online options are prerecorded and do not need to be scheduled.
- Reminder that we have a new assistant branch manager, Nathan Willis.
- A+FCU is currently hiring and has a part-time position available.
- Q from Ms. Gerlofs- Is the branch currently open?
 - A: The branch was closed last week due to staffing shortages but is currently back open for our regular hours, 11:30-5pm. We will post on the door if there is ever an unscheduled closing.
- Q from Ms. Van Horn- has the student intern position been posted yet?
 - A: This has not been posted but will be soon. We have posted our scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate financial assistance.

Public Comments:

- Van Horn: There is a link to the Public Input Portal channel (posted into the zoom chat) if people would like to contribute input to the district planning committees.
- Question from Mr. Gerlofs: "Will there be limited seating at graduation?"
 - Answer from Principal Salazar: Last year graduation was held indoors at Burger Center due to weather. Social distancing was impossible. This year the plan is to use the outdoor stadium seating and field for the graduation ceremony. Herff Jones visit dates will be posted to the Akins website.
 - Van Horn: The link to the Senior Graduation webpage is in the meeting chat and will be continuously updated.
- Question from Valerie Treminio: Are there any important senior dates and information. Also, will we have a prom this year?
 - Answer from Principal Salazar: Originally the 2021 prom was supposed to be at the Hyatt and was postponed. Prom will be at the Hyatt this year scheduled for May 7th.
 - Reminder from Van Horn: seniors must be on track for graduation in order to purchase prom tickets. Seniors can check with their APs and counselors to make sure they are eligible for prom.
 - Announcement from Nathan Willis: A+FCU can help sponsor student events and other activities. Staff can email him directly with requests.
- Update from Principal Salazar: There have been increased requests from parents and students to switch back to a virtual option. This will not be an option. Attendance requirements are set by the state commissioner and state board. The decision to go virtual last year led to a loss of funding and additional school time mandates this school year. With all of this as context, please understand why we are not able to offer a virtual option for secondary students in AISD.
- Question from Ms. Richards: Absences reported by Principal Garcia to PTSA
 - A: We had 78% attendance today. Our student attendance drops significantly on very cold days. For example, on Friday we had the highest absence rate I personally have witnessed.
 - Follow up Q: Is staff attendance rising or are there still many staff out?

- o Answer: It continues to go up and down. We are lucky because we have a good amount of substitutes that can help cover, especially long-term permanent subs. This allows us to cover classrooms when there is a high rate of teacher absences.
- Comment from Ms. Kozel: If you or someone you know ordered a coat through Coats for Kids and did not pick them up, they are available in the Student Support Services office. Also, if you know someone who may need a coat, please come by the SSS office.
- Question from a virtual observer: Why are students not allowed in the building before the bell rings at 8:50?
 - o Answer from Principal Salazar: We do not have the staff to monitor students prior to the first bell. Teachers are still prepping and we do not have the security staff. If there is heavy rain or extreme cold, we will allow students to come in and manage as best we can.
- Question from virtual observer: How can students or parents get yard signs?
 - o Answer from Principal Salazar: I can talk to the coaches and get them connected to the company Silver Images and they can help.
- Question from Pablo Ortiz: Did students go to theater for Cap and Gown orders?
 - o Answer from Principal Salazar: This was pushed back because of the numbers related to COVID but we will reschedule and post the new date.
 - o P. Ortiz announced that this would be his last year on CAC and Salazar thanked him for his service.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by Melissa Contreras, seconded by Ms. Miralrio at 6:49 pm.