



Vice President Mike O'Donnell convened the meeting with Peter Baron, Bowie Hogg, Wayne Ogle, Gloria Peña, Sherri Wade and Jerry McCullough present.

Program/Presentation

District-Level Instructional Decision-Making Committee (DIDC) Members

Anne Miller, secondary instruction, introduced the members of the 2008-2009 DIDC. The new members are as follows: Jana Mulkey, Marshal Westfall-Haessig, Dave McGarity, Patricia Connor, Michael Allen, Teresa Jarrett, Sandra Rahimzadeh, Pat Watson, Eric McKeever, Shelly Brady, Alanna Jefferson, Amy Willmann, Wendy Britton, Steve Howell and Elena Lopez.

Gang Summit Update

Lee Shelinbarger, gang specialist, updated the board on the findings and recommendations of the Community Gang Intervention Committee. The committee was formed as a result of the gang summit held last spring. Various community groups, churches, non-profit organizations, school districts and the City of Arlington have met over the last few months to exchange information on services that each organization offers. The committee recommends that the groups work as one community of inclusion and collaboration, under one umbrella organization – **Our Community, Our Kids**. Shelinbarger added that *Our Community, Our Kids* would exist to ensure greater awareness, focus and resources for addressing the needs of our young people. He also shared some brief details about the proposed organization would operate.

Appointments

The board approved the following:

- **Sara Clardy** as assistant principal of Sam Houston HS. She joins the AISD from the Fort Worth ISD where she was a prenatal/postnatal instructor at the Center for New Lives.

- **Karen Hill** as executive director of secondary instruction. Hill started her education career in 1975 in the Orleans Parish School District in New Orleans, serving as a speech pathologist and an instructor for fourth- and fifth-grade auditory impaired students. In 1979, she became the speech pathologist for the Child Study Center in Fort Worth. She came to the AISD in 1980 as the supervisor of special education. In 1987, she was promoted to assistant director of special education. Hill was named the principal of Knox ES in 1990 and moved to Webb ES as principal in 1993. She was promoted to director of special education in 1997. Hill holds a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans and a master's degree from Louisiana State University Medical Center.

She was named the NAACP Educator of the Year in 1993. Outside of work, Hill enjoys gardening and everything related to the Dallas Cowboys

- **Cindy Powell** as associate superintendent of finance. Powell started her career in 1986 as a staff accountant for KPMG Peat Marwick LLP. In 1988, she became an auditor officer for Ford Bank Group, Inc. She moved into the arena of school finance in 1990 as the internal auditor for Lubbock ISD. Then in 1993, she joined the AISD as internal auditor. Powell was promoted to director of accounting in 1996 and executive director of finance in 1999. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Outside of work, Powell enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and watching football.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McCullough thanked the board for attending the **community meet-and-greet** at Roquemore ES last week. He went on to say that it was a wonderful time to meet with all of the parents and community members. The hope is to model this program in other neighborhoods throughout the district.

McCullough congratulated John Burton, Nick Engberg and Colleen Robinson, Bowie HS, for attending **NASA's High School Aerospace Scholar** program in Houston. They participated in various tours and activities and heard lectures from scientists at the Johnson Space Center. With the help of NASA employees and resources, they researched and demonstrated hypothetical launches, lunar expeditions, Mars missions and human exploration of the solar system. The program required several weeks of homework, projects and exams, as well as teacher recommendations and a nomination from a Texas congressman.

Last Wednesday, many of our schools celebrated *International Walk to School Day*. Students and parents from Corey ES met at Cliff Nelson Recreation Center and walked to school. McCullough stated that it is great to see all of the families and community members involved in special events.

Crow ES celebrated *Hispanic Heritage Month*. Teachers shared information about their country of origin, including music. Elena Ovalle spoke about Chile dressed in traditional costume.

Nichols JH celebrated the life and memory of *Staff Sergeant Brandon Wade Farley* by placing yellow ribbons in the halls and holding a memorial ceremony. The nephew of seventh-grade reading teacher Tina Parchman died Sept. 18 in Afghanistan of injuries sustained in an attack on his mounted patrol. Air Force JROTC students from Arlington and Bowie high schools presented an American flag to Brandon's mother Sherry and his sisters. Student Council students Kylie Badgley and Dakota Walker spoke, and band teacher Bryan Stein performed Taps at the conclusion of the ceremony. McCullough expressed the honor he felt to attend the moving tribute.

The Council of PTAs is finalizing plans for their seventh annual *Celebration of Freedom Run*, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 25. The races begin in front of the administration building, with the first race starting at 8 a.m. The proceeds of the run benefit the Council's scholarship program.

Sandra Espinosa, Sam Houston HS, and Cynthia Sparks, Arlington HS, have been chosen to present at the *Texas Foreign Language Association annual meeting* in Houston this weekend. Their highly-innovative session deals with writing through the senses in middle and high school LOTE classrooms. McCullough thanked Espinosa and Sparks for representing the AISD and the LOTE department.



Discussion Items

- Cindy Powell, executive director of finance, presented the calendar committee's recommendation for the **2009-2010 school calendar**. The committee consisted of 23 members representing parents, students, principals, employee organizations, the community at large and district administrators. The recommended draft calendar has school starting Aug. 24, 2009 and ending June 3, 2010. Winter break would be Dec. 21, 2009 – Jan. 1, 2010, and spring break would be March 15 –19, 2010. New to the calendar for 2009-2010, the document will include the 2010 summer school schedule. At the request of the board, staff will review with the committee the possibility of adding recognition of Cesar Chavez's birthday, March 31, to the calendar; and the impact the 2011 Super Bowl may have on the 2010-2011 school calendar.
- The board further discussed the possibility of establishing a **committee to assess the district's needs** for a possible bond election. To date, 25 people have expressed interest in serving on such a committee and have filled out the preliminary online application. A deadline for applications was set for Nov. 3, 2008. The board will develop criteria to evaluate the applications and a charge for the committee.



Open Forum/Non-Agenda Items

- **Polly Walton**, UEA, shared with the board UEA's endorsements for the November elections and discussed the importance of voting and the impact elected officials have on public schools.