

Minutes for James Bowie High School (JBHS)
December 7, 2010
Campus Advisory Council

Members Present: Susan Leos, Martha Anne Kuntz, Aaron Garcia, Stephanie McGraw, Carolyn Merritt, Ray Grasshoff, Kevin Wood, Adrian Gonzalez, Steve Wand, Rose Ruffino, Andrea Ramirez, Amanda Campbell, Cyndi Harrison, Juedon Kebede, Wesley Bos, Lisa Chatham, Pat Bell, Eileen Jones, Pascual Piedfort, Karl Lauer, Steve Kane, Janette Miller, Tyler Gill

1. Call to order at by Tyler Gill at 7:36 am, seconded

2. Approval of November minutes

Moved and seconded

3. Introductions of Guests/ Citizen and Comments

Thanks to students for attending

4. Next Meeting Location and Future Meeting Locations

PE or Theatre to visit their facilities if available

**5. Classroom Technology/ Innovation Station/ CAC Wiki update –
Mr. Gill; CAC Wiki (bowiecac.wetpaint.com)**

Dianah Wylde offered to host the CAC Wiki through the AISD website for the school. Mr. Kane had previously asked Mr. Gill to make sure that the Wiki is allowable; after researching and consulting, Mr. Gill reported that it was allowable and that there is precedent within AISD. As part of his Innovation Station update, Mr. Gill spent a few minutes showing the group what his Spanish website looks like currently. Mr. Gill and some other teachers use Google docs for information collection. Mr. Gill also demonstrated recordings of students and Mr. Gill performing a poem in class.

When asked about the Rosetta Stone purchase for all foreign language students to use this year, it was noted that all foreign language teachers have used the program at least a few times. Head phones are the limiting factor at this point, and the Rosetta Stone program is somewhat different from the curriculum used in the classroom. It's an expensive license and hard to track individual student progress, so it's debatable if it will be used again next year. Students can only be logged in at school, not at home.

When asked about how hard it is to transition from using a blog to a webpage and creating a website, Mr. Gill responded that he has helped teachers get a website of their own up and running in 1.5 hours. Ms. Jones noted that some of the students in Mr. Reed's computer class have offered to help teachers build a website and help them keep it updated as well.

6. Principal's Report – Mr. Kane

Drug and Alcohol Task Force Report:

Kara Thompson met last week with Mr. Kane to lay out strategic plan for the committee to develop goals from. This meeting will be coming up soon and will probably last several hours. As a group, we looked at the number of Bowie suspendable offenses so far this year, and over 50% of these offenses have been drug and alcohol related. These incidents used to be more prevalent at extracurricular events, but now the offenses are mainly on campus due to administrators clamping down at events. We have more offenses this year than in all of last year. The numbers of students involved are low overall, but the increase is concerning. One of the goals of the task force is to help parents and the community with the monitoring instead of it just being at school. CAC members commented that we'd like to have students involved in process, especially from seniors as they are leaving and reflecting on their experiences at Bowie.

Bowie has received about 200 CoWs (Computers on Wheels) with netbooks. Between now and April we should have about 820 of these computers on campus for the online testing. Each department is receiving 2 sets of 30 computers each to make sure they are distributed evenly. We are encouraging the staff to get the CoWs into the hands of students so they will be comfortable using them before the testing next semester. The district will provide support for laptops and networking issues associated with having 900 students online at once as we would for end of course testing. Bowie is one of the pilot schools for a video conferencing system, and it will become a hub for use in this southwestern area.

Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Lauer (Student Leadership)

The Student Leadership Program has almost doubled since last year when it started. The students have adopted a family and had a benefit concert and are raising pocket change. So far over Student Leadership has raised \$5000 to help a mother and her son during the holiday season. Have around 60 students participating currently. Students benefit from this program and really enjoy it.

Student mentoring program – about 160 freshmen mentored by 130 juniors and seniors. Meetings occur on students' own time twice a week; only about 10-15 no shows a week for freshmen. Students who passed second six weeks had an opportunity to remove themselves from the program, and the vast majority wanted to stay in the program because they saw it as beneficial. Freshmen that are still failing classes need face time tutoring that they visited with their teachers at least twice a week. Ms. Ramirez is starting a mandatory tutoring during half of their lunch period if students are not getting in their teacher contact time. Teachers have seen an increase in the levels of responsibility and grades for mentors and mentees through the program.

7. Counselor's Report – Pat Bell

Individual Academic Career Plans in January for students to do career and interest inventories before signing up for classes.

8. Student Advisory Update - Stephanie McGraw

There is a Google doc for parents that might be interested in being speakers for advisories mini-presentations. This should be part of an outgoing email blast. Ms. McGraw discussed the financial literacy classes with Kara Thompson, and field testing those next semester for use in advisory classes on topics such as budgeting, credit cards basics, credit scores, needs versus wants, etc. The curriculum is taught through games to give students a basis for discussing the topics without being an economics lesson.

9. District Advisory Council (DAC) Report – Pascual Piedfort

The DAC was focusing on budget issues and any tweaks that might need to be made to the strategic plan from last year. The effort is to try to reduce as much as possible any funding that does not help students function at grade level in math and literacy. The district's mission is to catch them by the third grade so that we don't end up in high school with students with very limited literacy.

10. 2010-2011 Campus Improvement Plan – Susan Leos

Staff members are in the process of carrying out the goals and strategies on CIP. This year the staff has been focused on assessment and making sure we assess what we expect our students to actually know. Benchmarks are ongoing now. In the spring, we will hear from curricular areas on goals and results in the different academic teams.

11. Campus Task Force/ Parking Renovations/ Traffic Pattern Working well!

12. PTSA Report Time was yielded to item #13.

13. AISD 2011/2012 Budget Cuts

Mr. Kane - Master Schedule timeline is moving up to start in January or February to help with staffing decisions next year.

\$40-60 million shortfall of funds: Although the district is seeking input, the concern is that people in pockets will vote based on their personal/neighborhood interest, not AISD as a whole when voting. We are not sure how many staff will be lost at Bowie this next year, and this will be based upon decisions being made soon. FTE = Full time teacher equivalent on survey. Meetings with staff and instructional leadership meetings are ongoing about staffing.

CAC and Principal may have a large role in determining budget cuts at Bowie based on the needs of the district at the same time.

On the survey, there are questions about terms used and what they actually mean and limited options to choose between. Mr. Kane will contact central office and ask that a legend be put into place so that when staff or the public take the budget surveys, they are provided with definitions of the terms used.

14. AISD Facility Master Plans feedback/status, report – Carolyn Merritt

Ms. Merritt noted that Bowie's capacity has been corrected to reflect our capacity at 114%. She also noted they are still looking at vertical alignment options and still having conversations about campuses that might need to have changes in boundaries or could be possibly closed.

15. New Business

A question was asked about attendance and is the district working to increase attendance as that would bring in more revenue. Also, CAC members asked administrators to bring in Bowie's attendance data as compared to last year so we could see if it has improved.

A Parent asked that freshmen teachers (or advisory teachers) review exam process and percentages as well as provide support for the 9th graders in taking their first high school exams. He noted that some students might be too stressed and he asked that teachers help them through this process.

16. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.