

Minutes for James Bowie High School (JBHS)
September 13, 2011
Campus Advisory Council

Members Present: Tyler Gill, Cyndi Harrison, Andrea Ramirez, Ann-Marie Hutcheson, Aaron Garcia, Ray Grasshoff, Farra Roessner, Jennifer Vance, Susan Leos, Matt Orlando, Janson Higgins, Janette Miller, Douglas Jansen, Amber Bohanna, Kevin Wood, Karl Lauer, Lisa Chatham, Carolyn Merritt, Leanne Boldt, Bill Sheftall, Stephanie McGraw, Steve Wand, Steve Kane, Shawna Kelso

1. Call to order at 7:33 a.m. by Tyler Gill

2. Review of CAC Meeting Dates – Tyler Gill

CAC meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month. Tentative dates, to be confirmed later, for upcoming meetings in this school year are October 4, November 1, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1.

3. Introduction of Members (including Student Representatives) – Tyler Gill

Members, each in turn, introduced themselves.

4. Guests & Citizen Comments

None

5. CAC Secretary Nomination and Election – Tyler Gill

Ray Grasshoff self-nominated; seconded; elected.

6. Field of Dreams Update – Dean Goodnight, former Bowie CAC Chair

Work by many people in the Bowie community over many years has brought tremendous progress to making undeveloped land north of Bowie High School and across Slaughter Lane available for very limited use as a badly needed band and athletic practice facility, but the effort is not yet complete. The area is environmentally sensitive, and 45 acres have been accepted by the school district for two practice fields with environmental safeguards, minimal development, and no parking availability. The process had been complicated and tedious, but there is now strong buy-in to the effort from Stratus Properties, which has owned the land; the Austin Independent School District, and the City of Austin. The final major step in allowing the project to proceed will be approval by the Austin City Council in October or November. Strong, in-person support from the Bowie community when this issue is considered by the council will be vital. Another longer-term need from the Bowie community will be support for resources – possibly including new bonding authority, donations of services, or other methods – for earth-moving, irrigation, and other needs.

7. Principal's Report – Steve Kane

Students like the new block schedule, and teachers are learning how to use it effectively.

Cloud computing, allowing teachers and administrators access to school information from anywhere, is an advantage, as are many other technological tools that are blossoming at Bowie. This year, there are also new programs for at-risk students. For the first time, Austin Community College is offering classes on the Bowie campus, a development which opens the door to a new population of students, saves money for parents and Bowie, and reduces travel requirements for students.

8,12. 2010-2011 TEA Campus Accountability Report – Susan Leos

Bowie is a “recognized” campus, based on all of the students who took the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) last year. The State of Texas is replacing its TAKS with the new State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The STAAR is being phased in at Bowie and the rest of the state, beginning with this year’s high school freshman class. Goals in the Bowie Campus Improvement Plan’s Action Plan have been updated to make them more appropriate and to reflect the STAAR. Last year, 514 Bowie students took 1,081 Advanced Placement exams, and 404 (78.6 percent) scored a 3 or higher, a score which gives them college credit at many if not most college campuses.

9. Counselor’s Report – Leanne Boldt

Counselors are meeting with seniors to be sure that they are on track to graduate. Also, 75 percent of seniors have completed their applications to Austin Community College.

10. District Advisory Council Report

No report.

11. Student Advisory Update -- Stephanie McGraw, Andrea Ramirez

Advisory is up and running. We paid particular attention to needs of 9th graders and had a cookie social for them Friday of the first week of school. We are focusing on 21st Century skills and habits of mind that help students to succeed while here at Bowie. This year counselors will be visiting both junior advisory classes as well as senior advisory classes, starting with the seniors. Club Day will be held on September 22, the first Late Start of the year, to invite all students to join existing and new clubs.

13. Campus Task Force/Renovations

Not considered.

14. PTSA Report – Kevin Wood

The PTSA has donated four monitors to the school, allowing students to get updates on campus activities at different places on campus. The fall membership drive is under way. Bulldogs and Hotdogs event is approaching. Scholarships will be offered to students in the spring.

15. Future Meeting Locations, CAC Website, & Bowie Story Corps – Tyler Gill

Last year, CAC meetings were held at different sites on campus to expose members to different Bowie experiences, and that is a possibility for this year. The CAC website is under revision. BowieStoryCorps is an optional oral history project in development, pending administration approval.

16. New Business & Announcements.

Students applied for and received a \$2,500 grant for campus beautification purposes and are considering the installation of a Zen garden. – Matt Orlando, Janson Higgins

The cafeteria needs additional microwave ovens, which are heavily used by students and tend to wear out quickly. Donations of used microwaves are welcome.

17. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.