



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

Program/Presentation

United Way - Arlington – Before- and After- School Care

Patty Wright, program director, United Way - Arlington, presented the Board with information on the successful Before- and After-School Care program in the AISD. Girls Inc., the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club facilitate the programs at 33 elementary schools, serving more than 2,700 students in 2007-2008. Wright also shared information regarding the summer on-campus and off-campus programs.

Appointments

The board approved the following:

- **Tony Drollinger** as executive director of finance. Drollinger started his career in 1990 at the Texas Education Agency as an auditor. In 1991, he became a systems analyst. He moved to TECS, Inc. as a school finance consultant in 1994. Then in 1996, he came to the AISD as internal auditor. Drollinger was promoted to director of accounting in 1999. He holds a bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State University. Drollinger was co-author of the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook while working at TEA.

- **Wendy Carrington** as director of dropout prevention. Carrington started her teaching career as a fifth-grade math teacher in the Crosby ISD in 1996. In 1998, she moved to the Grand Prairie ISD as a seventh-grade science teacher. She came to the AISD in 1999 as a counselor at Hutcheson Junior High and then became SASI manager in 2000. Since July, she has been serving as interim director of dropout prevention. She holds a bachelor's and a master's from East Texas State University. Carrington served as a facilitator at the recent Success in School Summit and has been a member of a Red Ribbon Committee and a Campus Improvement Committee.

- **Magda Delgado Schenck** as assistant principal of Newcomer Center. She previously served the district as a bilingual/ESL instructional specialist.

Open Forum/Agenda Items

- The following speakers addressed the Board regarding high school and junior high scheduling: **Dean Wou** - supports adjustment of staffing; **Jeff Beck** - suggests that professional employees give back their two percent pay raise; **Helene Olsen** - supports returning the two percent pay raise by to employees and keeping the 4x4 schedule; **George Barrett** - said a change in block scheduling would be detrimental to the Air Force ROTC program at Arlington HS; **AJ Fischer** - advocates keeping the A/B block schedule and instead adjusting the staffing ratio; **Celeste Arms** - would like the Board to keep the current schedule; **Barbara Deakins** - supports cutting other programs in order to maintain current schedule; **Kristin Crocker** - disagrees with a hybrid block schedule, she supports the current schedule and would give back her two percent pay raise; **Edwin Wood** - supports an increase in the student ratio and would be willing to give up the two percent pay increase; **Karen Ellen Anderson** - supports 32 credit schedules; **Polly Walton** - shared with the Board her belief that the district's funding problems stem from the decisions the state has made regarding school funding; **Rachel Herod** - as a student active in fine arts, she supports block scheduling; **Kristen Trawick** - supports keeping the current teacher conference periods; and **Cathy Stein** - supports more study of a hybrid schedule in order to offer more instruction time. **Larry Shaw**, UEA, shared his thoughts on Steve Brown, retiring associate superintendent. Shaw acknowledged Brown for his honorable years of service to the AISD. Shaw also went on to say that he supports the current teacher conference periods.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McCullough began by reporting on the AISD's compliance with the Highly Qualified requirements of **No Child Left Behind**. NCLB requires that all teachers demonstrate subject-matter competency in each of the academic subjects they teach in addition to holding a state teaching license and a bachelor's degree. NCLB also requires that all teachers complete professional development sessions in their content areas and that all teaching assistants on Title I campuses be highly qualified. McCullough reported that the AISD is in complete compliance with all of these requirements.

US Army Specialist Nestor Ruiz surprised his family at Sherrod ES upon his return from Iraq. His kindergartener, Bianca, was in daughter Emma's pre-k classroom helping that morning. He hid in Emma's classroom, and when his wife came in to bring her to class, he walked out and surprised the whole family. What a moving reunion!

Wimbish Special Education Team Leader Amy Merk spent three weeks in Japan participating in the **Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program**. While abroad, she posted a blog about her trip to stay in touch with her students and colleagues. The blog also included information about Japan and math questions for students. Wimbish teachers incorporated her site into their lesson plans. The Fulbright Program is the government's flagship program in international exchange promoting mutual understanding between people of the world. McCullough welcomed Merk back, saying that he is looking forward to hearing more about the knowledge she garnered from her trip.

The AISD and Arlington Police Department recently hosted a collaborative presentation by the APD gang unit and Lee Shelinbarger, AISD Gang Specialist. Several community members learned more about **gang issues**. Questions about curtailing future gang activity were addressed.

In addition to free concerts, the **Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts** in Arlington's Founders Plaza hosted performances by several student groups in its inaugural fall season. Fall performances included the Bowie HS orchestra, AISD step teams, a dance gala featuring AISD dancers and AISD show choirs. Many groups have performances scheduled for the spring.

The mariachi band from Sam Houston HS qualified for the **SchoolJam Texas Battle of the Bands** semifinal. On Friday, Nov. 21, voting takes place at www.SchoolJamTexas.com to determine the top six finalists. Finalists receive gift cards to purchase new gear and equipment for the band and funding to buy equipment for all the music programs at the school, as well as a trip to Austin to perform in the live final.

At their annual convention in San Antonio, the Texas Association of Journalism Educators named Craig Coyle, CATE teacher at Martin HS, a **2008 Friend of Journalism**. The statewide honor recognizes outstanding contributions to scholastic journalism by individuals and organizations not directly involved in the daily instructional process. In addition to teaching photography, Coyle is the president of the Association of Texas Photography Instructors.

Lamar HS recently received the **2008 College Readiness Award** from the Texas ACT Council. The award is in recognition of a significant increase in the ACT Composite score over the past five years while also increasing the number of students taking the ACT Assessment. Only about 4 percent of the high schools in Texas accomplished this feat.

The AISD has once again received certificates of excellence from the **Government Finance Officers Association** and the **Association of School Business Officials**. Each award represents the highest standards of accountability and disclosure with respect to the AISD's financial reporting practices. McCullough invited Cindy Powell, associate superintendent of finance, to come forward to receive these awards. He thanked her for the hard work she and everyone involved in the finance department puts forth on behalf of the AISD.



Action Items

- **2009-2010 School Year Calendar** - The entire calendar is available for download on the AISD Web site - www.aisd.net. Following are highlights of the calendar:

First day of school	Aug. 24, 2008
Winter break	Dec. 21, 2008 - Jan. 1, 2009
Spring break	March 15 - 19, 2009
Last day of school	June 3, 2009



Discussion Items

- **Scheduling Options for Secondary Schools**

The administration presented additional information to the Board regarding the three options the Board previously identified during the work session for high school scheduling. The three options are as follows: 1. Block with one conference; 2. Hybrid of block and traditional; and 3. Adjustment of staffing formula to current block schedule. Information regarding the format and structure of each option, along with the pros and cons, was outlined for consideration. In addition, information was presented regarding eliminating the team planning period and adjusting the staffing formulas for the junior highs.

The Board gave their individual opinions on the various options and agreed to continue to garner input and information for consideration. The Board directed the administration to move forward on adjusting the staffing ratio at the high school level, to form an administrative committee to review scheduling options and to move forward with developing an attrition plan. The Board will continue the discussion at a future board meeting.