

**Mathews Elementary School
Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
Minutes for Monday, October 26, 2009**

[Note: These minutes are considered draft until approved at next CAC meeting.]

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

Council Members in attendance were Joy Baskin, Sara Belknap, Vivien Carson, Tina Fernandez, Barbara Flake, Christy Gates, Amy Kinkade, Cristina Mauro, Diana McMillan, Lauro Reveles, Ruthann Rushing, Kurt Sauer, and Tim Tierney.

The minutes from the September 28, 2009, meeting were approved as amended.

No public comments were presented.

Announcements from Members

Octoberama: By initial estimates, Octoberama earned approximately \$13,000 this year.* By comparison, the event earned approximately \$18,000 in 2008. New income this year included \$100 booth sponsorships, totaling \$2,500. Food booths were sponsored by vendors for \$1,000 each; as a result, food was provided and income earned at the same level as last year without the expense or effort. Advance ticket sales (and possibly all ticket sales) exceeded last year, but the silent auction earned less. Overall, the layout and organization were excellent.

[* Following the meeting, the Octoberama earnings estimate was revised to reflect total revenue of \$15,811.]

Principal's Report

Building and Grounds: Principal Kinkade met with Curt Shaw, who oversees construction management for Austin ISD. They did a walk-through of the building and reviewed the list of concerns identified by the building and grounds focus group at the State of Mathews meeting in spring 2009. They agreed that the condition of the building's paint was the primary maintenance issue for the school. The paint may need to be stripped to its base and an abatement performed, which would be a summer project. Other building concerns included improvements to numerous windows, including latches and screens; refurbishment in the area of the south stairs; resurfacing the playground area with new asphalt; completion of the elevator project; consideration of new options for wall surfaces in classrooms and hallways; and inspection of retention walls around the building.

Principal Kinkade will summarize the building needs in a report to Mr. Shaw, grouping the projects among service orders, summer projects, and future bond issues. She will follow up with the building and grounds focus group and the CAC. Parent Ted Siff, a

member of the building and grounds focus group, was in attendance. He emphasized the group's goal of relieving the Principal of the burden of overseeing building maintenance. CAC members observed that it would be helpful if the District would articulate the services it provides for grounds maintenance. In later discussion, it was suggested that a single point of contact could be established, other than the Principal, for the identification and prioritization of building and grounds projects.

New Business

2010-11 School Year Calendar: The CAC reviewed two possible calendars proposed by the District. Option A would be a calendar much like the current year, with a lengthy winter break. Option B would offer a shorter winter break but a full week off at Thanksgiving. The CAC discussed the benefits of both plans. While many expressed enthusiasm for a long Thanksgiving break, others expressed concern about attendance on the days shortly before Christmas. The CAC voted on the options, but the result was an evenly split vote.

HB 3 Graduation Requirements: The CAC had been asked by the District to offer its collective opinion on whether AISD should exercise the option now available under state law to eliminate certain high school graduation requirements, namely a half-credit of PE; a half-credit of health; and a credit of technology applications. The CAC discussed the motivation behind the new legislation – to allow high school students more flexibility in selecting elective courses. The CAC also discussed the importance of all three courses in the development of core skills in high school graduates. After discussing each course, the CAC voted to support: eliminating the half-credit of PE; keeping the half-credit of health; and keeping the credit of technology applications. If changes are made to graduation requirements, the CAC voted to incorporate the changes with an entering freshman class (rather than an immediate change that would affect students already in the midst of their high school course of study).

Scientific Spelling: Parents and staff have expressed interest in adopting a more systematic teaching methodology for spelling that could be consistent among grade levels. A presentation will be made to teachers about Scientific Spelling. If the staff chooses to pursue the program, it could be implemented next school year.

Future Business

No agenda items were suggested for the next meeting; however, the Principal did follow up on an item discussed at the preceding meeting. The issue regarding the Boy Scouts potentially excluding gay scout masters has been taken into consideration. Since there is no discriminatory intent on the part of the Mathews community and the club is actively serving a number of students, the Principal has decided to allow the club to continue to meet on campus.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 30, 2009, at 3 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.