

Winn CAC meeting notes: September 30, 2021

In attendance:

4:33 Ms. Bramley called the meeting to order. Introduced new community member: Kimberly Johnson; there were no emails regarding citizen communication; only CAC members are allowed to share during the meeting; anyone is allowed to join the CAC; reviewed CAC members - Mr. Hodge, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Mair, Jorge Gonzalez, Sarah Daily, Dr. Gutierrez, Sharon Fuller-Barnes, Tabitha Stephens,

4:36 Introduced the CIP; reviewed plan to break out in small groups, discuss parts of the CIP and then regroup to discuss as a whole; more requirements this year for the CIP; more than welcome to ask questions on the comments that are made;

4:40 in breakout groups:

4:56 returned from breakout groups: Group 1: Ms. Hervey had a question about the counselor doing lessons; Ms. Meacham responded by sharing her schedule and materials she is using; Ms. Blessum shared that Ms. Meacham is a co-chair of the Child Study Team and regularly meets to problem solve; Ms. Kabat asked about focusing on the whole child process; Group 2: visual learner group, Ms. Fuller-Barnes shared about having a session provided to the community after listening to what Ms. Martinez shared for SEL; communicating through clasdojo, what are some ways we can engage with the community with what we are teaching the students for SEL; Group 3: Ms. Johnson share her ideas about the district needing to market the Montessori program and other new programs; the programs are sometimes cut after not doing well, due to not being marketed well; there needs to be a 5 year plan, then what do years 6 - 10 look like; the Montessori banner is not really working in the neighborhood, due to community members not knowing what Montessori is about; she is involved with an organization that meets regularly and will be bringing up the issue of Montessori and the marketing by AISD during her next meeting; better marketing by AISD as a whole; Ms. Johnson is very familiar with Montessori due to having her children involved and would really like to see AISD push the program; she believes the community is a great market for Montessori; Ms. Bramley shared that we have a TUP (Targeted utilization plan) that has asked for a variety of tools to share about the program - door hangers, cups to spell out Winn on the fence, radio spots, etc. Ms. Johnson said if we have tried something and it is not working, we need to stop that part of the campaign. Her suggestion is to get more for your buck.

5:15 Winn campus updates: October 11 is changed to parent/teacher conference day when it had previously been a professional development day for staff; the marquee has been installed, but is not wired yet; there have been some concerns about the track and the basketball area; Ms. Blessum wanted everyone to know that she takes all parent concerns and questions seriously and is working to address concerns regarding those areas; there will be some staff changes, we are currently short 2 teaching assistants and are looking to hire more staff; short staffed for a variety of reasons, so we are behind on planning for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration and will have the program planned and implemented prior to the end of the celebration month, October 15.

5:19 Ms. Blessum shared about the trip to Dallas last week with Ms. Enloe. They visited Deally Elementary and Ida B. Wells Elementary. Ms. Bramley shared photographs of some of the

classrooms. Ms. Blessum shared that they received a very warm welcome and that it was a wonderful experience. Deally is a Dallas Montessori Magnet program. Students have to pass a test to be admitted and there is a waiting list. Some staff are currently going through their training and some staff are already AMF certified. Primary PreK - Kinder, they use a campus scope and sequence which they create on campus, it is not provided by the school district, Montessori in the public sector playbook. The purest form of Montessori is in the Primary classrooms. They do not interrupt their work cycle and all classrooms have a TA. The Lower elementary classrooms use a common core curriculum aligned with Montessori and there are no TAs in the Lower elementary classrooms. Upper Elementary is 4 - 6 and they focus less on materials and more on the Montessori pedagogy. This time is when students are pulling away from concrete materials and are using more abstract materials. They are doing more novel and literary studies. They have implemented the 40 book challenge. It doesn't matter what they read, as long as they are reading. The goal is to promote a love for reading and for them to become avid readers. There are no TAs in upper elementary classrooms. In Upper elementary, the percentage of students is: At risk: 9.2%; EL 5.3%; Low SES 26%; Special education 6.5% and TAG (Talented and Gifted) 50.1%; The school follows a SEL model, however, if there is a behavior issue with a student and it does not improve, the student will not be allowed to continue to participate in the program. There is no dual language program. 2) Ida B. Wells Downtown Elementary School. It is not a magnet program. There is a pipeline to recruit teachers within the district. That is an area where we struggle, in trying to find Montessori certified and Texas certified teachers. Dallas has a committee that works in recruiting staff through an application process where they can be approved to participate in the pipeline. The teachers already know the culture and district programs. They do not accept any new teachers to the pipeline. Ida B. Wells is adding a grade level each year. There is a TA in each classroom at the school. The campus has the autonomy to develop their own scope and sequence. They currently have a PreK - Kinder primary program and have added a Lower Elementary program beginning with 3rd grade and adding a grade level each year. They use the public playground across the street from the school. Their dual language program is an 80/20 in Prek with 50/50 by 3rd grade.

5:37 Ms. Martinez shared PTA updates: 40 members of which 21 are teachers; Wildcat t-shirt forms have gone home to place orders; still considering how to conduct the costume dance, possibly drive through is an option.

5:40 Meeting was adjourned.