

TI District Wide Parent Advisory Council Meetings, 2020-21
5/13/2020 & 5/14/2020 – Virtual Meeting
Minutes

Parents were invited to attend the annual TI District Wide Parent Engagement Advisory council meeting to review, revise and update AISD's TI District Parent Engagement Plan for the 2020-21 academic year. Participants included those who were previously on our DPAC and parents who attended AISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) programs or events. A total of 17 parents attended one of our four Google Meets (two held in Eng and Spa), 3 parents were unable to attend and shared feedback via phone/email. Parents represented a total of 15 schools (including Travis 6, Travis Main, Whittier, Caprock, Fannin, Palo Duro, Rogers, Park Hills, Mann, Lawndale, Bowie MS, Carver, Forest Hill, San Jacinto, and Tascosa).

Dr. Zuleyma Carruba-Rogel initiated each of these Meets by introducing the FACE team, thanking parents for attending the meeting and then proceed to review what it means to be a TI school and what the Parent Engagement Plan entails (see PPT). Parents were then asked what they felt their campus/district had done that effectively served parents during the academic year. Parents expressed their appreciation for the parent engagement programs their school and the district had offered, some of these included the Parent Collaborators program, the Course Fair at Caprock High School and Travis's Student Lead Conferences.

Overall parents mentioned that they were pleased with how well their school communicated information to them during this online learning season. The personal phone calls from Teachers during this time was much appreciated and parents want to see more of that level of communication in the next school year even after this pandemic leaves us.

Parent Recommendations and Requests

District-wide Recommendations:

- Parents consistently expressed feeling that they need **additional training on how to use Skyward**. Many of the parents did not feel confident in using the app and recommended an **instructional video to help them navigate the application**. They also want parents to be cautioned on how students change the contact info on there so that parents are not receiving notifications about absences, grades or misbehavior. Dr. Carruba-Rogel will visit with Holly Shelton to discuss a plan for creating a Skyward video for parents.
- Parents consistently expressed their need for program/event to **educate parents on mental health first aid**. Parents expressed an interest in wanting to learn to look for warning signs of depression, anxiety, and best practices to work with their children who are dealing with ADHD. This is especially relevant to them now as the shelter in place is affecting their children's mental health. Dr. Carruba-Rogel will visit with Tracey Morman to discuss a plan for implementing MHFA training for parents.
- Parents consistently requested for a video message to come from the district that could explain to a child what the Coronavirus and COVID19 is and why we are sheltering in place and taking the precautions that they are taking. They mentioned that their children are emotionally struggling with this because they miss their teachers and friends. They are also struggling to reconcile with sheltering in place when they see other children playing outside and they are staying indoors. Parents recognize that there are videos galore, but, they don't trust the messaging as there is so much misinformation out there, they want something to come from the district for our local students and families that they know they can trust. Dr. Carruba-Rogel will visit with Holly Shelton to discuss a plan for creating a Skyward video for parents.
- Parents expressed their strong interest in having the district provide ESL courses for parents desiring to learn the English language. The indicated that this would enable them to effectively contribute in their child's success at school. Dr. Carruba-Rogel will visit with our new FACE coordinator, Jessica Boachie to re-write our grant to UWAC in support for ESL programs.

Middle-School and High School Specific Recommendations:

- Parents with children in elementary schools feel that communication with their teachers is very consistent and ongoing. However, parents with children in middle and high school marked that their children adapted to remote learning with greater ease, although communication between their student and the teachers is ongoing, they don't feel as though teachers are communicating with parents more frequently. They expressed **wanting to be more included in student-teacher messages especially as we resume traditional classrooms**. Dr. Carruba-Rogel will share this request with our TI middle/high schools.
- **High school parents specifically asked if they can be added to the school-wide messages that go out to students about deadlines, events, etc.** They feel that if they were to receive these messages they can prompt their teens to get things done, making the processes for efficient. Dr. Carruba-Rogel will share this request with our TI high schools.

As a district, parents' feedback will be included in our district plan and our monthly Title I parent engagement meetings will include training and tools on how to make gains in these areas throughout the year.

Dr. Zuleyma Carruba-Rogel
Family and Community Engagement (FACE)