

## Thunderboard Minutes - April 6, 2017 - 4-5:30PM, THES Library

### Welcome and Introductions (7 min)

- I. **Welcome and Introductions (7 min)** In attendance: Tonya Penney, Kathie Lippencott, Alex Garza, Melissa Bowman, Kim Marie O'driscoll, William Myers, Wes Paparone, Beth Gehrlach, Julie Ulrich, Lisa Robertson, Daniela DeJongh and Mary Friedman.
- II. **Approve minutes from last meeting (3 min)--Minutes approved**
- III. **Community Input (5 min)**
  - A. Mary Friedman reported about AISD property that is for sale and includes the headwaters of Blunn Creek. More information can be found at <http://www.srccatx.org/>
  - B. Mary Friedman reported about a proposed affordable housing development project that may effect THES enrollment. More can information can be found at <http://www.srccatx.org/> (Sagebrook Property)
- IV. **PTA updates (5 min)**
  - A. Julie Ulrich reported about the new officers to PTA for the 2017-2018 school year as well as the budget. The Thunderboard discussed need for funding for staff development.
- V. **Reports (30 min)**
  - A. Review Action Items/Any Updates from Last Meeting
    1. Budget (*Lisa Robertson*)
    2. Early Release Update (*Lisa Robertson*) Lisa Robertson discussed the need for the whole campus to gather together for community building & whole-school initiatives. Austin ISD has implemented a program for "Schools of Innovation" that may help may ease some of the road-blocks we've had in the past for early release (i.e. buses). Early release would mean dismissal 2 x a month at 1:00 pm for 4 months. Days would not be made up. Thunderboard discussed next steps.
    3. February Retreat Follow-Up (Kim) Time constraints at the retreat prevented a discussion about barriers to the long-term visions. We are in process in finalizing the outline for our long-term vision write-ups.
  - B. Connecting with AISD & Sandra Creswell (Kim) Ms. Creswell is the new Area 1 superintendent (replacing Ariel Cloud). Kim proposed creating a relationship with Ms. Creswell
  - C. Welcoming Schools & Next Level of SEL/Staff Training (Lisa Robertson) Postpone until next meeting
  - D. Parent Support Specialist vs. Parent Advocate/Community (Kim) Outreach--Considering what Daniela Licona is doing and her role in helping the various parent communities at our school, we'd like to re-name her position. In May we will discuss possible titles that translate effectively her role.

E. Membership on Thunderboard (Kim)

1. Kathie Lippencott is leaving the thunderboard, but will continue representing THES within Austin Interfaith; Wes Paparone has served for 2 years, but will continue. We will follow up in the May meeting.

F. Follow-Up to 2016-2017 Initiatives (*Lisa Robertson*)

1. No Homework Trial - Double-Recess/Recess - WOW--Discuss in May with feedback from grade level teams.
2. Grade Level Communication--Develop a standardized means for communication with families that includes a digital and paper
3. Behavior Policy
4. Advocacy Team – *Colin Clark*

G. **Data Available for Review (5 mins)**

1. At our last meeting we discussed the difficulty of evaluating success of programs, (How should we be using our energy and funding?)
2. Beth Gerlach connected us to the AISD Research and Evaluation Director to help us access data and evaluate programs AND soliciting funding requests/grant writing.
3. Beth and the Thunderboard discussed ways to access data beyond STAAR data (qualitative data).

H. **Upcoming events (5 min)**

1. Austin Interfaith Events - For details, visit <http://www.austininterfaith.org/events> Meeting at Prince of Peace on April 27 to prepare for Candidate Forum (we will
2. SRCC: Tuesday, 4/4 @ 6:30 - (Life in the City United Methodist -205 E. Monroe)
3. Advocacy Team Meeting, TBA

I. **Goals for 2016-2017 (30 mins)**

1. **Recognition from AISD as an innovative school & Our 4 Pillars Now**  
---*Cathy Lippincott, Mary Friedman, Kim O'Driscoll*
2. **Academics/Funding**
  - Master Schedule to support teacher planning
  - Master Schedule to consider adding Spanish/PE daily rotation
  - Creating clear policies for campus: Homework, Recess and Wow
  - Sustainable funding/mentoring (training DL, PBL, BL, SEL; PSS, technology, software)--- *Julie Ulrich. Will Meyer,*
3. **School Climate**
4. **Relationship building**
  - a) -Support for teachers; Support for students/families; Special needs population

- b) -Open, supportive, and safe communications among individuals: Admin/Teachers, Teachers/Admin, Teachers/Parents, Parents/Teachers, children/teachers
- c) **-Supporting SEL Schoolwide; Mindful practices (*moment of silence*)**
- d) ---*Beth Gerlach, Daniela De Jong, Kim O'Driscoll*

#### **5. Cross-cultural outreach**

- a) -What resources are in Austin? Refugee services in north Austin for Arabic bilingual, Arabic college students (St. Ed's, UT).
- b) -Are there communication Apps? What are other schools doing to enhance cultural relations (e.g., Matthews, Hart, Doss)?
- c) ---*Tonya Penney, Daniella Licon, Wes Paparone, Rosa Rostro, Melissa Bowman*

#### **Next Steps/Action Items and Agenda Items for next meeting (5 min)**

- Mary--send Thunderboard members contact info for AISD trustees.
- Kim, Beth & Lisa--work on wording for parent letter & survey regarding early release
- Kim--Re-send the three questions that follow up the February retreat
- Lisa--Present 4 vision statements from the retreat to the faculty.
- Tonya, Beth, Kim, Julie, Mary, + PTA members--will work as a subcommittee to continue working through the plan for the vision from the February retreat, which will include ways to measure progress and make things easier for future faculty & community members.
- Kim, Julie, Beth, Eliza, Colin, Daniela--Reach out to Sandra Cresswell
- Tonya--Reach out to Ken Zarafis regarding teacher's salaries.
- Lisa--Will summarize the grade level input related to Thunderboard Initiatives & share dates when meeting with team leaders.
- Everyone will look for Thunderboard membership to balance for special ed representation and other groups that need representation (see guidelines on website).
- Tonya (Arabic/English) & Daniela (Spanish)--Brainstorm new names for Parent Support Specialist and present at next meeting.

Submitted for Translation 4/6/2017