



River Oaks Elementary SDMC Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

(To be approved at the next SDMC meeting)

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

Name of SDMC Member	Position (Add Date Term expires)
Jennifer Hertz	Kinder Classroom Teacher (2020)
Dominique Notton	1 st Classroom Teacher (2021)
Kate Behelfer	2 nd Classroom Teacher (2021)
Cecilia Baylon	3 rd Classroom Teacher (2021)
Patty Like	4 th Classroom Teacher (2021)
Diane Sheehan	Non-Instructional Staff (2021)
Nina Godiwalla	Parent (2020) Magnet
Catherine Matthews	Parent (2021) Magnet
Danny David	Parent (2021) Zoned
Michelle Lewis	Parent (2020) Zoned
Keri Fovargue	School-Based Staff (Head of School)
Adriana Myers	School-Based Staff (2021)
Farah Nematpour	Business Member (2021)

Dr. Fovargue welcomed the committee to the meeting, and distributed materials. A motion was made by Ms. Lewis to approve the December 2019 minutes. Ms. Like seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Dr. Fovargue demonstrated how to review the minutes, agendas online, so members could direct others to the public information on the website.

Next, Dr. Fovargue updated the committee on the PTO Music Proposal. At the January PTO Board meeting, the PTO Board accepted the SDMC's proposal to approve up to \$4500 in contract services to pay a music teacher during the spring semester.

Additionally, district school board agenda items were discussed along with a bond. Dr. Fovargue explained the bond process, and she shared that if a bond were to pass in November that ROE was slated to be in Phase One given the age of our building (1928). According to the last board meeting, the CFS department shared there was a \$4.7 million-dollar maintenance deficit. Specific items discussed were as follows:

ITEM H.1

[Is a safety audit going to be part of the assessment? Is an equity audit going to be part of the assessment? Is this all part of a larger assessment?](#) Yes, a safety assessment is part of the 2020 Facilities Assessment. An independent equity audit is not part of the work of this type of assessment. The results will allow the "equity lenses" to be reviewed on the intended focuses which include equity-in-access to programs on infrastructure.

The timeline for the assessment is quick (even if we had approved in January). Is it possible to do the assessment this year and do it well, and then plan to take the bond to a public vote next year? Yes, the timeline is achievable, based on the data that needs to be compiled.

What evidence do we have that the public would support a bond this year? (packet page 64) Currently, the only evidence we have is the school community support from Principals, parents and teachers that are hopeful to be included in the rebuild of a possible Bond. We will be putting the commiserate surveys out before we bring a recommendation to the Board.

Please share any academic plans for the district or schools (magnet plans, etc.) that would be provided to the contractor for this project. The academic plans are being developed for the 2020-2021 school year and will be shared with the assessment team over the next 5 months, if this is approved. Also, once the Board goals are finalized or revised, additional plans would be provided to the assessment team.

ITEM I.1

The Houston ISD Police Department is researching as to whether Metal detectors should be deployed to secondary schools moving forward. Is this part of a comprehensive safety strategy for the district? What research are we relying on to show us that this is effective? (packet page 79) Under research is the cost for equipment, the type of equipment which should be used, electrical/construction, personnel needed, impact on the HISD Community and overall viability. Currently metal detectors are only deployed at athletic events, graduation ceremonies and at the DAEP school. This research involves a comprehensive look at over two and a half years of police calls for service, crime statistics, and consultation with police officers who are most familiar with the schools. HISDPD is also in consultation with students and other stakeholders by way of committee and surveys for valued input. No decision has been made yet as to whether this should be part of the future security plan for the district.

ITEM A.2

Are there any next steps over the next months or year that will require board action, such as additional allocation of resources? District is currently researching the cost factor for centrally funding a librarian for every elementary school to further enhance the District's reading initiative. There will also be a need to increase the number of dyslexia specialists and training of campus-based staff to meet the growing demands of identified dyslexia students.

The proposed 2020-2021 Draft HISD Academic Calendar was shared. The calendar may be found on Packet Pg. 61 in the Board packet, and it will be voted on at the HISD February Board meeting.

Lastly, Dr. Fovargue also noted the following:

- The district had conducted a recent safety survey for principals, after the incident at BHS. She stated the district had responded to the survey well, and many items at ROE were fixed the next day.
- The PTO requested to move the General Meeting in the Spring to a morning meeting. Per previous SDMC approval, the PTO General Meetings in the Fall and Spring also serve as the SDMC General Meetings. Dr. Fovargue and the PTO President work collaboratively to host these meetings and provide guest speakers relevant to parents.
- The first Head of School Chat in the Café had 83 parents in attendance. At the parents' request, Dr. Fovargue agreed to have quarterly sessions with parents following SDMC meetings. She will also continue to attend the PTO Coffee on the Lawn and make herself available to parents.
- The fourth-grade teaching position would be posted this month. Mr. David discussed an endowment fund; however, it was decided that Dr. Fovargue would request additional funding for a music teacher to Dr. Lathan.

Questions/Matters to be Addressed

Dr. Fovargue referred to the email sent in by a parent regarding pricing and the After-School Program. The parent had presented a cost analysis comparing other after school programs to ROE's programs. Dr. Fovargue stated that the ASP (although fees may be higher than other HISD schools) was competitive to daycare in our respective location. The spike in fees is largely due to SchoolPay, which is the online pay software supported and encouraged by HISD. The school can still receive pay by check at this time; however, it is strongly encouraged to use the online system. The system is free to schools, and the cost does shift to the parents who pay for the program. The parent requested to know how the monies from ASP were utilized. Dr. Fovargue shared with the parent and the committee that there are rules that occur with the After-School Program account such as purchases must benefit all students in the school. So, funds have been used for cafeteria tables, technology, library books, specialists' supplies (art, music, PE, Spanish, library, STEAM, etc.), because all students have access to the items. The parent requested more longitudinal, detailed information, and Dr. Fovargue referred her to the district's Public Information Office. After discussion, the committee recommended that Dr. Fovargue should communicate with the parent individually.

Ms. Godiwalla asked about a timeframe for a bond. Dr. Fovargue shared that elementary schools may take 18-24 months to build. She also stated that the district previously provided temporary buildings during these projects and referred to Wharton Dual Language Academy's project.

Ms. Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Hertz seconded the motion. All approved; the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.