

## SDMC Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2018

\*Open to the public

(These minutes are not approved and are only a draft at this time.

Minutes will be approved in the regularly scheduled February 22 meeting.)

[Items in brackets are added by the principal after the meeting. Some are follow-ups, some are to help clarify, some are just sharing a bit more information]

1. October SDMC minutes were read and approved. Motion made by L. Baldwin and seconded by L. Wubbenhorst.
2. Mr. Amerson presented a data presentation of test results from 2016-2017. He shared the new state accountability system in which there are four factors the state uses to determine a school's rating; 1) number of students meeting standard on STAAR, 2) student progress on STAAR from one year to the next, 3) the achievement gap between the highest and lowest scoring sub-groups, and 4) college readiness. Poe scored 85 on Index 1, Achievement; the target was 60. Poe scored 48 on Index 2, Student Progress; the target was 48. Poe scored 46 on Index 3, Closing Performance Gaps; the target was 26. Poe scored 55 on Index , Postsecondary Readiness; the target was 12. Therefore, Poe met the standard and received a "distinction" in Reading last year. That is an improvement over the previous year when no distinctions were earned. The goal is to receive distinctions in each area. Mr. Amerson then went over both the state and federal performance status. Poe is doing well but areas of concern are with some of the sub-populations (special ed, Limited English, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Writing for African-American students) and also the 20%+ gaps between highest performing groups and lowest. Mr. Amerson then shared some of the strategies the school is using this year to help approve the achievement for all students including a focus on assessing students in shorter increments to help teachers focus instruction where needed, new district screeners, tutorials for students, etc. The entire plan can be found on the School Improvement plan on [www.houstonisd.org/PoeES](http://www.houstonisd.org/PoeES) .

### New Business:

1. The following concerns/input were submitted by the VP of Communications for PTO representing several parents:

"In the past, there was a BOCA rep on SDMC to help support Poe and be a liaison for the community around us. Is there currently a BOCA community member on SDMC? How can we involve BOCA? Some parents are interested in clarifying roles of non-instructional faculty and staff. What is the role of the:

- Social Worker
- Campus Education Technologist
- Magnet Coordinator

### Comments:

- Social Work Office: if lunch bunch, Poe Pals, etc. are cancelled, how often are students in that space?
- We are short on space, can this space be re-purposed for Violin, Intervention, or Flex Space for: Mentor/Tutoring program, Teacher/PTO/conference?
- Campus Education Technologist: Since Technology as a separate class, has been cancelled, our Technologist is/plans to supporting teachers in what specific ways? Does he come into classrooms to perform mini-lessons?
- Magnet Coordinator- how can the magnet coordinator help plan additional fine arts field trips, student art gallery open house, etc."

Mr. Amerson explained that the parent representatives (2) are chosen by the PTO. [This issue had also been previously discussed in a PTO Executive Board Meeting]

Instructional staff are the responsibility of the principal. They each wear many hats and contribute in ways that parents do not always see.

- The Social Worker functions basically the same way that the former counselor did. She works with students and families, she is in charge of all 504 and Special Education referrals. She is also the sponsor for the Poe House Councils. Her office is in constant use and is used for private and sensitive meetings and issues.
- The Campus IT Technologist is not a position that works with children or teaches. He maintains the many desktop and laptop computers and SMART Boards and has the computer lab available for both online testing and for teachers to sign up to bring their classes. He is also the campus online testing coordinator, the campus formative assessment coordinator, and the website master. He is also available to sit in with teaching teams as they plan to offer suggestions on integrating technology into lessons. [In the past, he has offered short 15-30 minute sessions immediately after school to help teachers with various programs ie. Powerpoint]
- The magnet coordinator is the person who plans and coordinates all field trips. She works very closely in planning units and is very hands-on in all aspects of the fine arts instruction at Poe. She is also the IB coordinator working with each teaching team to ensure IB is carried out with fidelity in the building.

Mr. Amerson opened the meeting for questions:

- Janine Chalitsios, parent asked if there is a way for parents to cross reference the results from the Universal Screeners and i-Station. She also suggested ways for parents to learn more about the testing, perhaps a lunch and learn. [not sure but we can look into the cross-referencing. The lunch and learn is a great idea]
- Ms. Hilton, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, said that Shutterfly has helped this year getting information to parents. She also mentioned the flu that is going around and asked about rooms being sanitized.
- i-Station- it was stated that i-Station is wonderful (i-Station is a supplemental online reading program that assess children and has stories the children read to improve their reading skills. asked if teachers could send information home about it. It was also suggested that Little Heroes could possibly have the computer lab open for students to use i-Station and other learning apps like Khan Academy.
- Lia Nguyen, VP of communications for PTO asked if there was a way the library could be open with flex hours ie. Some days stay open later, some days open earlier. She asked if there is a list of free reading apps and suggested that students with perfect attendance get rewards like free dress. She also asked how the school website is updated
- Carol Nolan also asked about educational apps that would be good for parents and students to use.

Mr. Amerson mentioned that the feedback was great and there were some great ideas. Some teachers already give free dress for their students spelling out IB attitudes like “reflective” but these are whole class rewards. Last year we also began letting individual students do it. Mr. Amerson explained that we have to be careful with anything that calls out individual students as some consider it a violation of the students FERPA rights to privacy. [This is a fine line between how we celebrate and the law.] However, the suggestions offered are great and will all be considered. Mrs. Nguyen asked how we go about building a positive campus culture. Mr. Amerson hopes that our IB-PYP program coupled with our new school-wide house system and the “Ron Clark-ish” Poe Essentials help contribute to the positive culture along with our Monday morning meetings as we work to help children with social skills, etc. The school website is maintained by Mr. Duong. [After this meeting, Mr. Duong and Mr. Amerson have started reviewing and updating the website. Last year, the district took all of the individual school websites and placed them in a template so all schools look the same. After feedback from the parents, Mr. Amerson agrees the website is confusing and not easy to navigate. We want it to be very easy to navigate. They are working together on this currently.]

Ms. Nguyen asked where the money went for the magnet fundraisers the school has done in the past. Mr. Amerson explained the money is given to each of the fine arts teachers in an activity fund account that is theirs to spend at their discretion when they need costumes, instruments, supplies, etc. Ms. Nguyen also asked how parents know whom to call if they need to address academic or discipline concerns. [This information was sent at the beginning of the year and can certainly be sent

again. The easiest answer here really is to call the front office. They will direct your calls to the proper person.]

The final question was "What is going to happen to magnets?" Mr. Amerson stated that he does not know yet but he does know that the school has to have ancillary/specials teachers and at Poe those will continue to be art, dance, music, theater, and p.e. Whether Poe is called a "magnet" school or not, it will continue to offer the same fine arts education as it currently does.

Mr. Amerson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.