### District Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting

**August 26, 2021**  
Hattie Mae White Building – Board Auditorium

#### AGENDA

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<th>Time</th>
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| Welcome       | Paulette Caston, Director | Research and Accountability Dept.  
DAC Facilitator |  
|               |                           |                         |
| Year at a Glance | Millard House II | HISD Superintendent |  
|               |                           |                         |
| Questions & Answers | Paulette Caston |                         |  

#### NOTES:

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**NEXT MEETING:** September 30, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
Minutes

Attendees Present: Carl Alexander, Jackie Anderson, Sarah Arvidsson, Nicole Ayen, Caroline Barbosa, Jenny Beech, Holly Beery, Vincent Branch, Andy Chan, Maria Fernandez, Maria Fuller, Gary Gartner, Ruth Kravetz, Monica Hill, Ashley Ivory, Coretta Mallet, Rolando Martinez, Karina Quesada-Leon, Melanie Rodriguez, Roel Saldivar, Daniel Santos, Rebecca Savoy, Colleen Schmidt, Tara Webb, Superintendent Millard House, Allison Matney, Abby Martinez, and Paulette Caston

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

- **Welcome** - Paulette Caston, Director – Research and Accountability, welcomed the District Advisory Committee (DAC) members and guests
  - Revisit Norms
- **Year at a Glance** - HISD Superintendent Millard House II
  - **90 Day Plan:** (1.) Re-engage with students, families, and staff (2.) Develop a safe and orderly plan for reopening schools (3.) Bold strategic plan to improve district student performance
  - New hires to the executive cabinet
  - Commitment to collaborating with the community and sharing with the community the 90 Day findings
- **Questions and Comments:**
  - *Would you share updates on teacher vacancies?* It’s a difficult situation. National problem with respect to teacher/staff shortage. Commit to a three-year “grow your own program”. Hiring daily.
  - *Would you elaborate more on the “grow your own” program?* Will collaborate with education partners. Identify individuals in support staff for the “grow your own” program.
  - *Would you speak on low enrollment numbers for the district and the impact on teachers?* Hope the district is “held harmless” by Texas Education Agency. If not, may need to re-distribute or shuffle teachers to help balance classes. Hoping after Labor Day, student enrollment increases. Other districts in urban areas experiencing similar trends of low enrollment.
  - *What plans do you have to re-engage families & community - and bring back students to HISD?* Will meet and continue to hold community meetings during the 90-day listening tour. Plan to draw families through innovative solutions. Some schools do not have magnet programs that may contribute to inequity. Potentially look at consolidation of schools - ensuring the community has “traded up” with more magnet programs.
Could you speak on bus service improvements/transportation? Having conversations about using smaller buses for doubling routes. Explore incentives like improvement of pay.

Could you speak on other virtual options for families? Interested in virtual option as long as managed like a magnet program. Will hold magnet spots for students who temporarily choose virtual options for a semester.

When will central office employees who are assigned to classrooms due to teacher vacancies be able to return to normal duty? No set timeline yet since urgency to guarantee every student has a highly qualified teacher in the first weeks of school. Will follow up soon with a formalized answer.

Before potentially consolidating schools, will you examine other options? Yes. Will look at potential programs that could draw students to their neighborhood schools first before possible consolidation.

Will virtual options with Texas Connections decrease funding to HISD? Funding will not be greatly in our favor if families choose Tx Connections virtual option.

What can we do as a community to help you succeed? Offering feedback or pointing out any potential blindspots. Communicating with Board members.

- Other Information
  - If you have any future topic ideas, please email Ms. Caston
  - Next DAC meeting on September 30th at 5:00 PM
  - We will continue to meet virtually.
  - Question from Ms. Coretta Fontenot: May we submit more questions for Superintendent House? Yes, a survey will be sent out to collect more questions from DAC members.

- The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Daniel Santos