

AUSTIN ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Date: May 21, 2009

Place: Austin "A" Room

Time: 6:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lupe Becerra, Chayo Carrasco, Nikki Charles, Joan Davis, Diane and Jim Erickson, Randy Gschwind, Connie Hartley, Espy and Raul Rodriguez, Beckie Soltero, and Dr. John Tanner

GUESTS PRESENT: Carlos Flores, Dr. Garcia, James Guye, Ray Lopez, Lesa Provenghi, David Rivera, Berta Roque, Vona Van Cleef, Bill Wachtel.

MINUTES: Minutes were distributed and approved by email after the last meeting, and have been posted on the internet.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The beginning balance was \$5423.41. There were deposits of \$810. The production and mailing of the newsletter was \$3,346.65. This left a balance of \$2886.76.

DR TANNER: Dr. Tanner reported that on the results of the TAKS scores. The sophomore class was the class that would determine the future of Austin. Last year as freshmen they had a 36% pass rate and this year as sophomores they had a 70% pass rate. We are still a stage 5 school but it is a stage 5 exiting school, and we must make the scores again next year to get off stage 5. 80% of our seniors have been accepted to 4 year colleges. Last year we had 42 seniors accepted at UTEP, and this year 167 graduates have been accepted. Graduation will be at the Don Haskins Center on June 9th.

DR. PROVENGHI: reported that our freshmen are already getting higher scores than our freshmen did last year. We are looking forward to recognized and beyond next year.

DR GARCIA: Dr. Garcia gave a power point presentation on the Academic Achievement as an impact on economic growth. In 2005 there were 22 schools that were academically unacceptable. In 2008-2009 there are 15 exemplary school, 46 recognized, 19 academically acceptable and 2 academically unacceptable. These are preliminary results and my change. Dr. Garcia also stated that he is hopeful that Austin will become a recognized campus.

EPISD has one of the lowest percentages of administrative cost in the state. Consolidating schools: Houston has 344 students, Schuster has 226 students and Zavala has 238. Houston students could have gone to Moreno and Coldwell. Parents and city leaders got upset and this slowed the process down and the closures will be postponed for a couple of years. This will give the communities an opportunity to increase enrollment in these areas. These schools would be used as Central Office space and this would save the district money on property that is currently being leased, such as the Boeing offices. This is what happened at Wainwright school when it was closed and a new campus was built.

The EPISD Plan for Excellence is based on good instruction first and allowing students to continue to take the classes that they find enjoyable. The plan for Excellence addresses all the different areas. The purpose is to educate the whole child. The students who are in fine arts tend to outscore the students who are not in these electives. We don't want to take these options away from students. We want teaching and learning to be engaging.

The students coming in with the military will attend the schools that they are zoned to attend. We will have an increase in enrollment due to incoming military.

CARLOS FLORES: Stated that his goal is to find ways to get parents involved on all of the campuses including the feeder schools. Supporting teachers, students and organizations that support the school and this will help draw in the parents.

MEMBERSHIP: Raul is suggesting a membership committee be established to contact any new members we get as a result of the mailing. Raul had told the seniors they would receive membership cards good for 1 year. They can be given to the students at graduation possibly in the diploma. It would be requested that the students be told that there is a membership card for the alumni association with their diplomas.

NEWSLETTER: The newsletter has gone out. The cost was \$3,346.65. The newsletter should have been received yesterday. Lupe suggested that a newsletter committee be established.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The scholarships for excellence committee met last week and did award the scholarships. The money needed for scholarships will be \$2000 of which we can pay \$1000 in the fall and \$1000 in the spring.

NICKI: requested that we add a calendar on the Board Business page.

PROJECT GRADUATION: This is the all night alcohol free, drug free party after graduation at Incredible Pizza Company. A motion was made to donate \$150 to Project Graduation. The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be August 20 at Austin in the "A" at 6:00.