SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
CENTRAL OFFICE

514 W. Quincy St.
San Antonio, TX 78212
www.saisd.net
210.554.2200

SAN ANTONIO ISD District Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 24, 2024

San Antonio ISD District Advisory Council meeting was held on September 24, 2024 beginning at 4:07 p.m., Board Room, 514 W. Quincy Street, San Antonio, TX 78212.

1. Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Shawn Bird

- The meeting was originally scheduled for 4:45 PM but had to be moved to 4:00 PM due to a posting error
- Shawn Bird, the Deputy Superintendent of Academics and School Leadership, will be the executive team member working with the council this year
- The council will receive a student achievement update and provide feedback on a proposal for "peace rooms" as an alternative to traditional discipline
- This is a legally mandated council that advises the district on meeting board goals and approves certain plans like the professional development plan
- The council has established norms around assuming positive intent and doing what's best for students

2. Overview on Peace Rooms Concept by Dawn Kulpa

- Discipline Data - Peace rooms are a Tier 2 support to provide students a space to reset emotions and regulate behavior before escalating to disciplinary consequences.
- Student Feedback - The district has high rates of out-of-school suspensions, resulting in over 13,000 lost instructional days.
- Beliefs Contributing to Suspensions - Students report low sense of belonging, social awareness, and self-management through district surveys and advisory committees.
- Exclusionary Discipline Practices Have Negative Long-Term Impacts - A 10-year study found that more exclusionary discipline practices (out-of-school suspensions, etc.) lead to decreased attendance, lower credit attainment, and lower graduation rates.

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- Peace Rooms Show Positive Benefits - Peace rooms have been shown to have benefits for students, teachers, the school environment, and academics compared to exclusionary practices.

- Multiple Pathways for Accessing Peace Rooms - Students can request to use the peace room, be recommended by an administrator, or participate in scheduled restorative practice circles.

- Need for Operational Considerations - Factors like staffing, space, capacity, and clear guidelines for appropriate use need to be addressed in implementing peace rooms.

- Extending to Elementary Schools - While the initial focus is on secondary grades, there is a need to consider implementing similar supports at the elementary level as well.

3. District Performance Data provided by Liza Rosenthal

- The district saw improvements in EOC passing rates and meeting grade level benchmarks.
- 3rd-8th grade data had mixed results, with some bright spots but also areas of concern.
- Math performance struggled more than reading, with the district unable to fully recover to pre-COVID levels.
- Gaps persist between student subgroups, with a focus on improving outcomes for Black students in math.
- Accountability ratings have been delayed due to ongoing legal challenges, but the underlying student performance data remains the priority.

4. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM

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