



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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