



JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
Austin City Council
Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees
Travis County Commissioners Court

Joint Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 25, 2023
11:30 – 1:30 PM
Travis County Commissioners Court
700 Lavaca, Austin, Texas 78701

Joint Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Austin (AISD) Independent School District

Matias Segura, Interim Superintendent, Austin ISD
Arati Singh, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 9, Board President
Noelita Lugo, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 8
Ofelia Zapata, AISD Board Trustee, District 2
Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, and Policy Oversight
Lt. Lance Cox, Austin ISD Police Department

City of Austin

Alison Alter, Council Member, District 10
Jose Velásquez, Council Member, District 3
Ryan Alter, Council Member, District 5
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager
Michelle Myles, Senior Business Process Consultant, Austin Public Health, City of Austin
Laura Patino, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Austin (Virtual)

Travis County

Jeff Travillion, County Commissioner, Pct 1
Brigid Shea, County Commissioner, Pct 2
Pilar Sanchez, County Executive for Travis County Health and Human Services
Ana Almaguel, HHS Director, Public Health Division
Korey Darling, Planner Manager, Research and Planning Division

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m. by Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up for public comment.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made to approve JSC meeting minutes from April 21, 2023, by Commissioner Travillion, second by AISD Board Trustee, Ofelia Zapata. Motion passed unanimously.

Arati Singh, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 9, requested a moment of silence for the two AISD students that had recently passed away. Commissioner Travillion followed by stating the ongoing need for providing mental health resources for students and teachers that are being used effectively. Commissioner Travillion gave special recognition to Interim Superintendent Segura on this initiative.

III. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Composition

Commissioner Shea went over the list of potential standing items that were recorded from the April 21, 2023, meeting minutes. CM Alison Alter specified the need for more availability on brainstorming these standing items. She also asked which JSC members can lead on any of the items. CM Alter stated she would be willing to take the lead on childcare and preschool since she is already engaged in several current projects. She named childcare, preschool and after-school programs that she is currently involved with. Mental health was another standing item mentioned as a priority. CM Ryan Alter and Commissioner Shea discussed interest on climate impact.

B. Objectives

Recommendation was made for JSC members to discuss objectives and goals at the next meeting for possible policy formation. AISD Trustee, Noelita Lugo asked if there were pre-work initiatives taking place now. Commissioner Travillion requested to define the resources and their current success, if any. Interim Superintendent reminded the committee of the current budget gaps and how this may impact some of these standing item initiatives. Commissioner Shea reminded the committee that there needs to be more attention on the climate action for student awareness. Commissioner Travillion recommended youth groups that can present at local schools with these types of issues, such as Cub Scouts. AISD Trustee Ofelia Zapata closed the discussion on the importance of providing jobs to high school graduates, with AISD hiring fifty-six students and the City of Austin hiring ten students total. Finally, Edna Butts Integral Care, city, and county contacts to offer support for mental health resources and outreach.

IV. SAFETY UPDATE

A. Campus Safety

AISD Interim Superintendent Segura began with the update of how many SROs are currently at all campuses. Although this has been tough financially to provide, administration is recommending to the Board of Trustees hiring of additional SRS's to comply with HB 3. The need for more attention was discussed on a potential emergency operation occurrence, including severe weather. Any initiative with improvements made on campus include feedback and involvement from teachers, principals, and counselors.

Lt. Lance Cox discussed the mental health unit at the AISD Police Department. This includes a certified licensed mental health professional, which can help students, their parents, and staff. School behavioral threat assessments is a proactive evidence-based approach for identifying individuals who may pose a threat and for providing interventions before a violent incident occurs. This includes referrals made to parents and their students.

Edna Butts went over the details of HB 3 on the armed security requirements. The summary includes who is responsible for what, including one armed security present during school campus hours. The legislative update included panic alert devices, parental notification of student threat assessment and pepper spray usage for students under ten years of age. The availability of funding and the qualifications of a security officer was noted. The preference is that the armed security is a commissioned peace officer or school resource officer, who will receive specialized training, including mental health training. Lt. Lance Cox concluded the significance of putting the right person, in the right place when it comes to the hiring of security officers.

B. Gun Violence Prevention

Michelle Myles gave an update of the Second Annual Gun Violence Prevention Summit that occurred on June 8, 2023. There were two proclamations, through the City of Austin, by CM Alison Alter and the other by Travis County Judge, Andy Brown. Michelle mentioned the local partners including TXP and Community of Justice Action Fund. She shared presentations regarding different elements on an effective ecosystem, including an outreach resource for those who have experienced a violent act, such as gunshot or stabbing. This also includes a street outreach diversion program, such a coordinated crisis response team.

Michelle talked about the ecosystem being designed to take a holistic approach to providing services that will lead to a healthy, safe, and peaceful community. Michelle spoke about the importance of having a plan, with investment, strategy and leveraging resources included. She also mentioned the inventiveness of a trauma recovery center by City of Austin and Travis County, which will provide treatment to victims and their families that have experienced violent crime.

C. Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program and Travis County Active Shooter Training

Ana Almaguel presented updates for the pilot prevention program of the hospital-based violence intervention. There were three items that were directed to HHS and Ana gave specifics, such as medical partnerships, including those hospitals which have a level 1 or 2 trauma center. Korey Darling also discussed the coordination of other entities who have similar programs, including local data on gun violence. Other government offices that were mentioned were Harris County and Baltimore Ascension at St. Agnes. Lastly, Ana Almaguel discussed the active shooter training initiative currently scheduled at Travis County. The request was made to provide an update, two quarterly meetings from now, tentatively scheduled for March 2024.

V. BRIEF UPDATES

A. Special Education

Matias Segura, Interim Superintendent acknowledged the end of the second week of school and the message for all staff to take care of themselves. The main goal is being successful but also self-care should take precedence with recent tragedies. The goal of mental wellness for students, staff and teachers is vital. The presentation outlined the timely multi-year project planning initiatives by AISD.

B. Mendez Middle School

There was an update on the collaboration to get Mendez Middle School to improve its accountability rating, as well as preventing a school closure. Interim Superintendent Matias detailed the focus on Mendez Middle School is moving in the right direction and will continue to provide updates on the school's progress.

V. RESILIENCE HUBS – WRITTEN REPORT – Laura Patino, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Austin - Please see the Written Report.

VI. Establish Next JSC Meeting Date - December 8, 2023, tentatively.

VII. ADJOURN