

# CAN Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 05/13/16

Austin City Hall, 301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 1101, 1-3 p.m.

**Present:** **Marina Bhargava**, Executive Director, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; **Colette Pierce Burnette**, President, Huston-Tillotson University; **Kelly Crook**, Superintendent, Del Valle ISD; **Ashton Cumberbatch**, VP of Advocacy & Community Relations, Seton Healthcare Family; **Jerry Davis**, President & CEO, Goodwill Industries Central Texas; **Sherri Fleming**, (for Margaret Gomez, Precinct 4 Travis County Commissioner); **Christie Garbe**, VP & Chief Strategy Officer, Central Health; **Stephanie Hawley**, Associate V.P. for College Access, ACC; **Stephanie Hayden**, (for Ora Houston, Council Member, District 1, City of Austin); **Patricia Hayes**, Board President, Greater Austin Black Chamber; **Jeremy Martin**, Senior VP, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Becky Pastner**, (for Bobbie Barker, Vice President, St. David's Foundation); **Erica Saenz**, Associate VP, UT Austin; **Brigid Shea**, Precinct 2 Commissioner, Travis County; **Nick Solorzano**, (for Sabino Renteria, Council Member, District 3, City of Austin); **Simone Talma-Flowers**, Executive Director, Interfaith Action Central Texas; **Yasmin Wagner**, District 7, AISD Board of Trustees

**Partners not represented** Workforce Solutions-Capital Area, St. Edward's University; Community Justice Council, Austin Travis County Integral Care; City of Pflugerville; One Voice Central Texas; United Way for Greater Austin; Manor ISD; Capital Metro; Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber; CAN Community Council.

**CAN staff in attendance:** Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd and Carlos Soto.

**Call to order and introductions:** Board Chair Jeremy Martin called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Members introduced themselves and shared announcements.

**Approval of minutes:** The 4/8/16 meeting minutes were approved unanimously, with a noted correction, on a motion by Jerry Davis, seconded by Kelly Crook.

**Executive Director's Report:** Raul Alvarez announced that the first of three community dialogues n Bridging the Economic Divide will be held on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Two additional dialogues will be held in June at El Buen Samaritano and at Goodwill Industries. On Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> the Regional Summit Planning Team will meet at Goodwill Industries to plan the summit to be held in October or November. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the Translation and Interpretation Network from Fort Worth will meet with the CAN Language Access Work Group to discuss language access needs in our community. Alvarez reviewed the board meeting schedule for the year, noting the June meeting will feature the topic of bridging the economic divide through a focus on housing. The 2016 CAN Dashboard will be released in a press conference on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Community Council Update:** Community Council leaders were unable to attend the meeting. Alvarez noted that the CAN Community Council will meet on Monday, May 16, 2016. Paul GiDiuseppe with the City of Austin CodeNEXT initiative and Jonathan Tomko with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development will discuss how City planning, policy and services use a person-centered approach. Commissioner Shea said her office is working on making it possible for the Community Council to meet at the County's 700 Lavaca Building.

**Greater Austin My Brother's Keeper Task Force Update:** Ken Harris, with the UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, said he is the facilitator for the Greater Austin Area My Brother's Keeper (GAAMBK) Task Force. The Task Force was created in response to President Obama's call for efforts to

help young men of color reach their full potential by eliminating disparities. He reviewed the vision, mission and goals of the effort to address disparities and boost academic achievement, health and well-being for young men of color, with an evidence-based, data-driven approach. Many CAN partner organizations, as well as CAN, are engaged in the initiative. The last two SXSW festivals have included presentations on the My Brother's Keeper Initiatives both nationally and locally. Harris said the effort will include broad community engagement efforts to reach out to parents and students to help develop strategies that will work.

Susan Dawson, Executive Director of the E3 Alliance, the data partner for the initiative, shared data about the disparities in outcomes for men of color. She described the process for working with the four Committees of GAAMBK that pertain to the educational pipeline to identify the most important data points to be considered and then aggregate the data by income, gender, ethnicity and race to identify the disproportionate differences in outcomes. (The other two Committees focus on justice and on health.) The data show that income alone does not explain the differences. The largest gap by race was in disciplinary referrals in middle school. The gap in higher education enrollment is twice the gap in high school graduation rates. Each Committee (Early Learning, Middle School, High School and Higher Ed) was challenged to select two metrics for primary focus. Each Committee generally chose one academic metric, which schools can address, and one non-academic metric, which the community as a whole can address. The next step will be to dig deeper into the high priority metrics selected by each Committee. The analysis will identify schools with Young Men of Color populations that are succeeding, so others can learn from them.

**Discussion:** Sherri Fleming, who serves on the GAAMBK Health Committee, said the group is discovering that there is not much health data available for the sub-populations they are most interested in. Dawson was asked if the data is revealing specific strengths in the young men of color. The Task Force does hope to identify areas of strength and specific schools and communities where young men of color are thriving, so that we can learn from these communities. Gilbert Cutkelvin welcomed community members to participate and connect through the GAAMBK website <http://gaambk.org/>

#### **Local and Regional Efforts to Address the Economic Divide through Education:**

**Austin ISD:** AISD Trustee and CAN Board member Yasmin Wagoner said AISD has seen a 10% increase in graduation rates as well as math and reading scores that exceed state and national rates. AISD has 83,270 students on 130 campuses. Edmund Oropez, Director of High School Operations with AISD, noted that the Texas Supreme Court ruled that very day that the school finance system is constitutional, which means local property tax revenues will continue to be sent to the State. The district is also facing declining enrollment and aging facilities, which require difficult challenges and choices. In spite of these challenges, AISD has made a commitment to increase funding for its Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. They have worked with the Greater Austin Chamber to identify what the jobs of the future will be and are working with ACC, and other partners, to create CTE programming that allow students to earn free college credit through articulation and dual credit. About 6,000 students earned articulated credit last year. The district also offers 55 industry certifications in health science, information technology, and other areas. "Student sharing" allows students to take some courses that are not available in their home school at another school, without transferring out of their home school. Reagan, LBJ and Travis High Schools are Early College High Schools, and plans are underway to expand to Eastside Memorial HS. Early College High Schools allow students to earn up to two years of college credit, tuition-free, before they even graduate from high school. AISD is surveying students and parents to see what additional Career and Technical Education programs are of most interest to students and parents.

**Discussion:** Oropez said the two factors driving the declining student enrollment are declining affordability and the growth of charter schools in the City which are aggressively recruiting schools away from the district. He said two driving forces determine certifications and CTE programming that are offered are labor market demand and student interest.

**Del Valle ISD:** Superintendent Kelly Crook introduced members of her team – Norris Sebastian, CTE Coordinator; Pilar Westbrook, Director of Student Support; and Todd Gratehouse, Chief Technology Officer. DVISD serves 11,559 students, 87.5% of whom are economically disadvantaged. DVISD students develop a Personal Graduation Plan, identifying their career interests, in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 94% of high school seniors took a college readiness exam; The Early College High School, through partnership with ACC, allows students to earn an Associates Degree while earning their high school diploma. The DVISD high school graduation rate is 94%, compared to the State of Texas rate of 88%. The District seeks mentors and role models to share their experiences with students. The Career and Technical Education program includes partnerships with ACC, Women in Engineering, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, among others. Students have earned over 300 industry certifications. Students also pursue internships with business partners, such as St. David's, the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, Burn Restaurant, and Guero's Taco Bar, and they are actively seeking new partners.

House Bill 5 has directed new attention and focus to career and technical education and making students aware of their future career options. Industry and other organizations can help by: providing internships, informing the district know about future workforce needs, providing information on the technology and certifications that are most useful in the job market, and provideing information on career pathways and salary scales. Students cannot earn health certifications unless they complete Clinical Rotations, and there are not enough Clinical Rotations available to meet the need. In Waco ISD, students meet the Clinical Rotation requirements through simulated labs at the high school, and students seeking employment find it through a partnership with Scott & White Hospital. Computer Science is a critically important element in many jobs of the future. Black, Hispanic and female students are under-represented in computer science programs. DVISD uses research to identify programming that works well and plan around it to pilot integrated computer science programs within math and English classes. Coding Curriculum is integrated within the curriculum in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. "Edcamp" on Saturdays and "CodeCon" are other initiatives that promote interest in science and computers.

**Discussion:** It was noted that DVISD has a large proportion of students who participate in Early College Start. DVISD identifies students in middle school and offers Saturday trainings to let students and parents know about the opportunities. The District has also kept focus on continuing to build and grow the programs. DVISD is also working to identify the specific skills students need to interview, prepare resumes, and to describe the specific tasks they can perform that are aligned to industry needs. Ashton Cumberbatch noted possible opportunities for health internships with the Seton Healthcare Family.

**Manor ISD:** Kristi Garcia, Director of the Manor ISD/ACC Career Certification Center, said Manor ISD covers 100 square miles that include portions of Austin, Manor and Elgin. The District has Manor HS, Manor New Tech High School, a new ACC Certification Center, and a credit recovery school. MISD has gained over 1,000 new students over the past three years and is expanding facilities to meet this need. One-third of students are English Language Learners (ELL) and three-fourths are economically disadvantaged. House Bill 5 provided the impetus for schools to provide counseling and guidance for students and to get them to think about career options early in their education. MISD/ACC Career Certification Center offers six certifications. Instructors are provided by ACC. The Center held a graduation this week, followed by a

Job Fair and all electrical tech students were offered jobs. Garcia emphasized the important role industry plays in letting schools know what skills, degrees and certifications are most important for students to receive.

**Adjournment:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.