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**District Improvement Team
(DIT) Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2014
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

In attendance: Theron Brown, Linda Buchman, Shikonya Cureton, Mary(Ane) Daily, Katherine Dawson, Virginia Johnson, Katherine Kennedy, Allison Lee, Michael Mackey, Michelle Marcil, Angelique Moulton, Gretchen Holtsinger, Penne Irvin, Jeff Post, Chris Rice, Isaiah Rodriguez, Lynn Schneider, Chris Vierra

The February 4, 2014 meeting of the District Improvement Team was called to order by DIT Chair April Blanco-Falcon at 5:45 p.m. In attendance were the following DIT members:

District Update – Duncan Klussmann

- **Teacher Evaluation Program.** Dr. Klussmann began the district update portion of the meeting by updating the DIT on the teacher evaluation work the DIT is engaged in, noting that there may be delays by the state. He reminded the DIT that when the state develops its new system, SBISD has the option to use the new state system or develop our own. He reminded the group that the DIT has affirmed that the members agreed to have our own SBISD-developed system.
- **Make-Up Days.** Dr. Klussmann noted that there are several options for consideration. He noted that, though other districts are choosing to use the February 17 date, we will not. The reasons are two fold. First, the date is designated as a teacher flex day, and the second is that many families have long standing plans for this weekend, with many using it for college visits. The remaining two make up days currently on the calendar are Good Friday and Memorial Day. For this year, and in the future, it is being considered that we move makeup days to the end of the year. If we were to change make up days for this year and/or for the 2014-15 school year, the Board of Trustees would have to re-adopt the calendar(s).
- **HB5.** The State Board of Education has approved rules on HB5 regarding how endorsements will work for the future. SBISD is developing unique English and Math courses in partnership with Alief ISD and Houston Community College. Students who take these courses their senior year and pass will be able to go straight into college Algebra and English with no remediation. The rules for HB5 apply for current 8th graders and below. The legislation is intended to give more choice with high expectations.

- **Bond Program.** Frostwood Elementary, the 11th elementary school to be rebuilt under the Bond Program, opened in January. Valley Oaks is 2-3 weeks behind, but the foundation is complete. Rummel Creek Elementary, the 13th campus to be rebuilt, will have its groundbreaking this spring and will move to the West Transition site for next school year. The Board of Trustees will be working on savings in the bond program which will be set aside for emergencies that may arise in the next few years. SBEC has \$16 million budgeted in the current bond plan, and the district is currently studying that project to see if there are ways to keep parts of the original high school area, build new space around and upgrade the aesthetics of the property. Also under consideration is the possibility of keeping part of the facility for use as a museum to respect the history of the SBEC complex and the history of the district.
- **SBEC Gala.** The Spring Branch Education Foundation is hosting a new event – Legacies of Spring Branch. The first honorees will be Doug Foushe, (RCE, LMS, NHS alum), and CEO of El Paso Energy, Barry Abrams, and Andrea White, who will receive a Hero of Education award given in the name of Larry and Susan Kellner

Teacher Evaluation – Dr. Jennifer Blaine

Dr. Blaine, Associate Superintendent for Administration and Operations, updated the DIT members on the work of the Teacher Development and Evaluation Cross Functional Team, which is providing supportive efforts for the DIT’s work on development of a new teacher evaluation system for SBISD. This team has discussed questions, including, “What does an effective T-2-4 teacher’s classroom look like, feel like and sound like?”

Considerations around this question include:

- Self and Others – How does the teacher interact with peers and students?
- Classroom Culture -- What should be evident as the optimal T-2-4 classroom culture?
- Content knowledge – What should teachers know and do?
- Teaching Cycle –How should teachers facilitate learning in the classroom?
- Student Growth and Achievement – What data should be used?

Dr. Blaine led a discussion and interactive activity with the DIT members who were divided into groups to respond to these questions. The groups viewed each other’s responses and had an opportunity to add to the comments in each area (See attached exhibit for DIT responses)

Cross-Functional Team Update – Elliott Witney

Elliott Witney, Exec. Director for Strategy and Innovation, shared with the group about a new masters program under development in partnership with UH. He also shared the

impressive T-2-4 related news that 80% of Spring Woods High School students had at least one option for higher education, the highest in the district as of this time.

Mr. Witney provided an overview of the work of the five cross-functional teams to date. There being no further business, the DIT meeting was ended at approximately 7:15 p.m.