



**District Improvement Team (DIT)
Meeting
Thursday, September 6, 2012
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

In attendance: Craig Adams, Lynne Barry, Caroline Bennett, Theron Brown, Mary Daily, Katherine Dawson, April Falcon-Blanco, Allison Fowler, Chris Gonzalez, Jennifer Heffner, Judy Lehman, Michael Mackey, Michelle Marcil, Rhonda McCary, Delia Medrano, Gretchen Papazis, Jayla Rhodes, Melinda Speight, Susan Walter, Austin May, Brenda Ordonez, Linda Buchman

Percent of DIT members in attendance:

CALL TO ORDER:

Duncan opened the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m., and welcomed all DIT members. As the first meeting of the year, all members introduced themselves. Duncan specifically thanked the student participants, noting the benefits that the student voice brings to our work.

DISTRICT UPDATE:

Duncan provided an update on the district and answered questions from DIT members, including:

- **Spring Branch Plan:** The Spring Branch Plan 2012-2017 officially launched this school year, with the goal known as Spring Branch T-2-4. The goal represents our aim to double the number of students successfully completing some form of higher education --a technical certificate, 2-year or 4-year degree – by 2017.
- **Budget:** We are entering the second year of the Biennium, and the second year of our two-year budget plan, with \$27 million in reduced revenue from the state over the 2 year period. Looking ahead, year 3, or the first year of the next Biennium may be very challenging.
- **SKY Partnership:** We launched the SKY Partnership this summer, with approximately 105 students at KIPP Courage at Landrum Middle School, and 145 students at YES PREP Northbrook. The two programs are serving a broad-base of students who meet all spectrums in terms of academic need and academic achievement. We are excited about the opportunity that the partnership provides for us to expand choice for students and learning for our school system from two high performing charter programs.
- **Update on EOCs:** The State has deferred the 15% rule. The EOCs will count toward graduation. The state just announced scale scores, but we don't yet know what scores will be required to pass. Once we get the results, we will know where the cut score is.
- **Impact of not going with National Standards:** When asked about the impact on our students if we don't go with national standards, Duncan affirmed that we are not ignoring the common core standards as we revise our curriculum. Eventually, it could be an issue for the state and our teachers as Texas will be left out in terms of materials to which our teachers will have access, given that everything nationally is geared to the Common Core

Standards. Additionally, grant funding at the national level will follow the Common Core Standards.

- **Campus Improvement Teams:** When asked about how campus improvement teams are supposed to function, Duncan affirmed that the CIT's are responsible for Campus Improvement plans that are typically due in August. The CITs may address other issues, such as campus-specific waivers. Enrollment is currently up more than 100 students over projections. This is positive and impacts positively our revenue. Some schools are up significantly in enrollment. Edgewood, for example, We are watching enrollment closely, especially in light of tighter staffing. At this time, we will estimate the need to add about 10 teachers.

ELECTION OF DIT CHAIRS:

The first order of business was the selection of DIT chairs for the year. Duncan affirmed that the role of the DIT chair is to help facilitate the agenda at meetings and facilitate any discussion on waivers that may arise. Lynn Barry has agreed to serve this year as the staff-co chair. Jennifer Hefner offered to serve as the parent co-chair. Both were affirmed by the DIT membership to serve as the co-chairs this year.

REVIEW OF DIT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

DIT members were provided with three documents – the statute, and legal and local policies. Linda Buchman reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the DIT and these documents.

Several noteworthy items include:

- **Joint Public Hearing on AEIS** (Academic Excellence Indicator System). Each year, the DIT must hold a joint public hearing with the Board of Trustees on the AEIS. The public hearing must be held within 45 days of the receipt of the AEIS report from TEA. Typically, the hearing is in late fall, but can be as late as January or February, depending upon TEA timing.
- **District Focus.** DIT meetings are focused on district wide programming and not individual or campus issues. Members should feel free to communicate individual or campus concerns to Duncan, but should not use the DIT forum for such communication. Duncan will make sure the chain of command is followed but will always try to assist.
- **Waivers.** From time to time the DIT may be asked to provide comment on waivers prior to submission from the Texas Education Agency.
- **Advisory Role.** The role of DIT is an advisory one. As outlined in policy, staff development for which DIT approval would be needed would be only staff development that would impact all employees. For example, a few years ago, the entire district participated in Covey training.
- **Task Forces.** From time to time, there may be task forces implemented to study a particular subject, and often to make a recommendation to the district or the Board of Trustees. One task force forming will focus on the "T" in the T-2-4 goal. The group will

look at options and opportunities to expand the types of experiences students can have in support of the technical track of post-secondary experiences. DIT members were asked to contact Linda Buchman if they wished to serve on this task force.

CALENDAR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS INITIATED

Given its broad stakeholder representation, the DIT serves as the district's calendar development team. DIT members were provided with an array of documents including Board Parameters, sample calendars, Calendar FAQ's and other backup information to assist the group in making informed decisions as it works to develop calendar recommendations to the Superintendent for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. Jennifer Blaine and Jennifer Cobb walked the group through the process. The DIT then divided into two groups – one to focus on developing two draft calendars for 2013-14 and one to focus on two calendars for 2014-15. At the conclusion of the meeting, the two groups shared out and assessed the process. Among the questions posed was whether we really need to have two options for the community and staff to comment on as neither group found a great solution yet for a second calendar. It was concurred that it would be better to have two options, so stakeholders can really see clear choices. Neither the 2013-14 nor the 2014-15 groups concluded the process of developing two calendars for stakeholder comment. Thus, the process will continue at the October meeting.

MEETING DATES

DIT members reviewed the upcoming meeting dates. We will try to hold some meetings offsite at new SBISD elementary schools.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at approximately 7 p.m.