



District Improvement Team (DIT)

Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2013

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

In attendance: Sandra Barbaraella-liu, Lynne Barry, Theron brown, Linda Buchman, Katherine Dawson, Chris DiPaplo, April falcon-Blanco, Allison Fowler, Jennifer Hefner, Harrison Lee, Austin May, Delia Medrano, Reesa Nevarez, Jennifer Rivera, David Sablatura, Melinda Speight, Cira Trevino, Susan Walter

Percent of DIT members in attendance: **50%**

CALL TO ORDER:

Call to order was given by co-chair, Lynne Barry. Next meeting we will meet with outgoing and incoming members jointly.

• **Waiver Discussion**

- Pam Butler indicated it was time to re-apply for waivers. Though there is a new process on-line, DIT will still be consulted.
 - 1: Mostly for high school
 - 2: Similar but specifically applies to October 16th
 - 3: We have had this one for many years
 - Question regarding wording – Ms. Butler explained it was a typographical error and would be corrected
 - 4: Reapplying in case we want a different textbook than recommended by the state
 - 5: Really due to caps – we have not used it, but would like it there in case we need it
 - All members were in agreement with the waivers

• **DIT Election Results**

- Linda Buchman provided a new DIT roster, with new members highlighted. There were not as many applicants as in years past. May 2nd will be a joint meeting where we welcome the new members and thank the outgoing.

• **District Update**

- Dr. Klussmann provided a district update.
 - Spring Branch Plan
 - We are looking to add a critical measure around SEL. The other 4 are performance based, and there is a struggle to keep the credibility/concrete aspect with this new measure. The desire to add this is because it has been a real focus of the system, and we do not want it lose its importance /want to keep it emphasized.

- The 3 segments of the plan are: ready for higher ed, to higher ed, and through higher ed. We are ramping it up to be sure we are preparing students for today's realities, and not just our perceptions.
- Hope to take the whole package to the Board in the next 2 months.
- Legislative/Budget
- Academic – 3 main areas: change the graduation plan, reduce testing, and change accountability.
 - Though the House voted overwhelmingly to pass, much opposition has surfaced in the Senate.
 - Student CIT member shared his situation with failing a Physics AP class and now being on the minimum plan.
 - Testing could decrease from 15 to 5 EOC exams.
 - Accountability system could be an A-F system, but D would be failing.
 - **Finance**
 - Very confusing for the SBISD community. Though money is being added, it is based on the wealth of the district rather than the wealth of the students. Main concern is the distribution – hoping the conference committee will even it out.
 - Priorities are pay raises, lowering class size, providing full time elementary counselors and PreK aides, but there will not be enough for everything.
 - The classroom has to be the key to the system. For the next 2 years, we will be financially okay, but we cannot add things back in. We want to be sure we retain high quality teachers.

- **SKY Partnership**

- Going well! Districts from the state and country are coming to visit!
- Focusing on the partnership aspect/student relationships and teacher relationships – a lot of collaboration taking place.
- There is currently a task force looking at the high school design.
- There was a lottery because so many students applied.
- We will be doing data analysis this summer.
- The purpose of this partnership is to provide students with more options, rather than having a one size fits all model.

- **Questions/Comments**

- A parent member noted that she was happy to see more interest in track and field events. Dr. Klussmann noted that this is in part to being moved back to campuses, rather than being at a central location. He also praised the district coordinators for their efforts in increasing participation, especially with low income students.
- Secondary Dual Language will begin next year at WAIS, SFMS, and SWMS. This will be a choice if students want to continue after elementary school.

- Next Meeting – May 2nd
- There being no further business, the meeting concluded at approximately 7 p.m.