



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2016
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Lori Brown, Roberto Carbajal, Anne Daily, Katherine Dawson, Suzanne Farrow, Cynthia Fratina, Benjamin Garcia, Thurmeliues Glover, Allison Gower, Sol Herrera, Nathan Mesler, Mark Miller, Scott Muri, Jose Oxi, Mark Parenti, Pamela Pennington, John Pisklak, Jane Primrose, Kristi Robishaw, Donnie Roseman, Glenn Ryan, David Sablatura, Kate Sparenberg, Suzanne Stiles, Diane Thelen, Jennifer Thorpe, Chris Vierra, Esmerelda Warshaw

Percent of DIT members in attendance: **68%**

GUESTS: Lance Stallworth, Becky Wuerth

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Co-chair Anne Daily, welcomed all in attendance and asked everyone to take a moment to review the draft minutes for the December, 2016, meeting. Cynthia Fratina, moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Jennifer Thorpe. The minutes were unanimously approved.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR UPDATE:

Lance Stallworth, SBISD Executive Director for Student Support Services, thanked the DIT for the December meeting conversation. After all of the comments and suggestions by the DIT, a new calendar has been developed to capture the specific priorities presented at the December meeting and from the community survey results. A new draft, provided to the DIT as, "Calendar A," was created and presented to the Board of Trustees at their December workshop. Based on Trustee comments and concerns, an additional new draft provided as, "Calendar B," was developed. Lance provided the DIT some time to review the two newly developed calendars and the related comparison chart.

Lance informed the DIT that the Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation School Start Date exemption at their December meeting. This enables the DIT to recommend either Calendar A or B. There were no questions from the DIT in regards to either calendar.

Linda Buchman informed the DIT of proposed next steps for the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar process. A second survey will be developed and emailed out to parents, staff and the Spring Branch community. The survey will showcase the two new calendars, A and B, and will directly ask the survey recipients which they prefer. The survey will be open for five days starting on January 9. The survey results will be shared with the DIT. Linda proposed that the calendar receiving the most votes serve as the DIT recommendation for Dr. Muri to consider recommending for Board of Trustees approval at their January 23 Board meeting. All but one DIT member approved this plan. The dissenting member disappointment in neither calendar providing a release date prior Memorial Day.

DISTRICT UPDATE:

Superintendent, Scott Muri reviewed some of the topics the Texas Legislature will be discussing as this year's legislative session begins on January 10. Dr. Muri informed the DIT that the Board of Trustees are actively engaged in representing SBISD and advocating on the district's behalf to our legislative delegation. Trustees plan to go to Austin during this year's legislative session to ensure SBISD's needs are heard. Dr. Muri believes that SBISD will make a difference in the current school funding process, per the active voices in the community.

Dr. Muri informed the DIT on the following topics:

School Finance: The Recapture law was recently found to be constitutional by the Texas Supreme Court. In previous years, when Robin Hood first began, recapture funds from SBISD were sent to Laredo ISD. That process changed a few years ago. Currently the money is sent to the state's general fund and not necessarily used to support education, or other school districts who have a high number of students who are economically disadvantaged. Spring Branch tax payers will be writing higher checks, while the state decreases funding for our school district.

School Voucher System: There are advocates for vouchers at the state level during this session including the Lt. Governor. Voucher models, called by several different names, would be funded by dollars currently going to public schools. We need to be watchful of legislation introduced regarding vouchers.

A-F Rating System: This year's legislative session will be focused on the results of the A-F rating system. The ratings will be officially issued for the first time in August 2018, but the law requires a preliminary work-in-progress report noting potential grades by domain to be issued to the Legislature by January 2017. The 84th Legislature passed HB 2804, changing the Texas school accountability system so that every campus and district receives one of five ratings from A-F. The new accountability system is based on criteria the TEA created. There are 5 domains in the A-F rating system which are slightly different based on level (Elementary, Middle and High). Out of the 5 domains 3 are based on STARR testing results at each campus.

Domain I: Student Achievement

Domain II: Student Progress

Domain III: Closing the Gaps

Domain IV: Postsecondary Readiness

Domain V: Community and Student Engagement

The DIT expressed an interest for helpful resources like the Tax letter and recapture posters created for informing the community of impacts on SBISD.

DIT ELECTIONS:

Linda informed the committee of the upcoming DIT elections which will kick off on January 19. Two year term positions and any current open positions will be filled per this year's election. Announcement and the publication of new DIT members will take place on February 27.

Anne Daily provided final comments. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.