



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
Thursday, September 1, 2016
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Lori Brown, Roberto Carbajal, Beth Cole, Anne Daily, Suzanne Farrow, Cynthia Fratina, Benjamin Garcia, Thurmeliues Glover, Allison Gower, Delfino Guillen, Melanie Harper, Amy Hulshizer, Nathan Mesler, Mark Miller, Michael Moreau, Scott Muri, Davis Palmie, Mark Parenti, Pamela Pennington, Jane Primrose, Kristi Robishaw, Donnie Roseman, Glenn Ryan, Daivd Sablatura, Kate Sparenberg, Rachel Stone, Dmel Tatum, Diane Thelen Jennifer Thorpe, Chris Vierra, Esmerelda, Warshaw,

Percent of DIT members in attendance: **90%**

GUESTS: Lance Stallworth, Becky Wuerth

WELCOME:

Dr. Scott Muri, SBISD's Superintendent of Schools, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back to school and to service on the District Improvement Team. Dr. Muri shared insights about his first day of school experience visiting various campuses.

DISTRICT UPDATE:

Dr. Muri gave the DIT an update on the school district enrollment to date; the district is currently at 35,000 students enrolled. Dr. Muri does not see this number reaching the projected goal of 35,700. Dr. Muri mentioned that the changes occurring in the Spring Branch community including dip in the oil prices and transformation of area apartment communities may lead to our not meeting projected enrollment of 35,700 students.

DIT CHAIR SELECTION, 2016-2017:

Linda Buchman, Community Relations Officer, explained the DIT tradition of having one staff and one parent/community member serve as co-chairs of the DIT. She explained their primary role of facilitating the meeting agenda and signing as the DIT chairs on any waiver applications that may come before the DIT for approval. Ann Daily, staff member, and John Pisklak, community member, have graciously agreed to serve as the DIT co-chairs for the 2016-2017 school year.

REVIEW OF DIT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

DIT members were provided with three documents related to the District Improvement Team including the statute, and legal and local policies. Linda Buchman briefly reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the DIT and these documents.

Several noteworthy items include:

- **Joint Public Hearing:** Each year, the DIT must hold a joint public hearing with the Board of Trustees after receipt of the annual district performance report from TEA. Typically, this is a joint meeting held at the January Board of Trustees Regular Meeting.
- **District Focus:** DIT meetings are focused on district-wide programming and not individual, or campus issues.
- **Waivers:** From time to time, the DIT may be asked to provide comment on waivers before submission from the Texas Education Agency. Since the waiver process has changed at the state level, there may not be as many of these requests going forward.
- **Advisory Role:** The role of DIT is an advisory one.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

Dr. Muri provided a brief summary of what the DIT will be focused on for the next few months. The DIT will be fully involved in developing a 2017-2018 academic calendar to recommend to the Superintendent. Dr. Muri, in turn, is responsible for making a final calendar recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval. Dr. Muri introduced Lance Stallworth, Executive Director of Student Support Services. Mr. Stallworth further explained the focus of the DIT meetings and calendar development process that will occur over the next 3-4 months.

Mr. Stallworth introduced a few constraints and overviews, starting with general state requirements and Board approved guidelines. Mr. Stallworth introduced Becky Wuerth, Community Relations Specialist, who co-leads this process. The DIT was referred to the Exhibit 1, Parameters for Development of SBISD 2017-2018 Academic Calendar hand out provided in each member's folder. Ms. Wuerth explained that the creation of the academic calendar should be in the students' best interest. Some requirements were described based on current laws. Because SBISD is a District of Innovation, the DIT could make recommendations that would require the Board of Trustees to consider exemptions to current calendar-related laws.

The DIT was separated into three groups to work together and start developing their version of the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar. Each team was encouraged to start with the current rules. They were also encouraged to think differently and consider "what if's" that would enhance the calendar for the benefit of students academically.

After 45 minutes of group work, Mr. Stallworth asked the groups to come back as one to discuss their challenges or accomplishments thus far. Group One discussed their challenge about what is good for the students in terms of what day is beneficial, starting the school year during the middle of the week opposed to on a Monday. Group Two had a goal to have all students out before Memorial Day. With that goal in mind, the group had to decide on the best time to start the school year. This led to the question, "What will parents need to give up to achieve the desired start time?" Group Three discussed trying to balance semesters with the same amount of days and start time, trying to end by Memorial Day. The group also had the goal of ensuring more curriculum is covered before spring state testing days.

Mr. Stallworth concluded the DIT meeting by encouraging the members to brainstorm ideas on their own and bring any new ideas to their groups at the next meeting in October.

In response to a question regarding the manipulation of start times for schools, Dr. Muri answered the question by reminding the DIT that their focus is on the academic calendar days not the timing of school hours and bell schedules.

Linda provided concluding remarks.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.