



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting

Thursday, November 1, 2018

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

APPROVED

Meeting Start Time: 5:03 p.m. **Meeting End Time:** 6:20 p.m.

Member Attendance: Melanie Bash, Amaris Bobbio-Tarco, Minda Caesar, Nicholas Coopriker, Charlotte Fisher, Tammy Hampton, John Kenna, Jessica Licarione, Leslie Marquez, Scott Muri, Michelle Nguyen, Clifford Nickle, Angelica Oprea, Mary Reed, Holly Saunders, Betty Smith, Maria Solorzano, Steven Speyrer, Chris Vierra

Percent of DIT Members in Attendance: 45%

Non-Member Attendance: Linda Buchman, Katie Redd, Mike Thomas, Elliott Witney, Becky Wuerth

Welcome

Dr. Scott Muri, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed the District Improvement Team (DIT). Dr. Muri then passed the meeting facilitation to Linda Buchman, Community Relations Officer, to approve the minutes from the October DIT meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Buchman asked the DIT to review and approve the October 2018 meeting minutes. Mary Reed noted that she was not recorded in attendance, and requested the minutes be changed to reflect her attendance. No additional changes were recommended by the DIT. Tammy Hampton motioned to approve the minutes with note of attendance adjustment. Steven Speyrer second the motion for approval, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2019/2020 – 2020/2021 Calendar Development Process

Linda Buchman introduced Mike Thomas, Director of Research and Evaluation, to share the second round of calendar survey results.

Mr. Thomas began with the results for the 2019/2020 calendar. With 2,838 respondents composed of staff, students, and parents, Mr. Thomas explained the majority of respondents were parents. The results of the survey showed 68% of respondents chose Calendar Option 1 as their preferred calendar for the 2019/2020 school year. As there were no questions regarding this calendar, Mr. Thomas moved on to the 2020/2021 Calendar Survey results.

Mr. Thomas discussed the results of the 2020/2021 calendar, stating like the 2019/2020 calendar, Calendar Option 1 was chosen as the preferred calendar by 52% of survey respondents, while 48% of respondents chose Calendar Option 2. Mr. Thomas then broke down the results further, looking at the results based the self-described respondent groups. This showed that while both teachers and parents preferred option 1, the results of the teachers were extremely close with 51.2% of responding teachers choosing option 1 and 49.2% of responding teachers choosing option 2, amounting to a difference of four votes. Continuing with the breakdown by respondent group, Mr. Thomas stated that administrators

and non-campus personnel also preferred option 2. After asking if there were any questions, Mr. Thomas also addressed an additional question that was only asked to administrators and teachers, that question being: “Which day would you prefer as a staff development day: October 12 or November 3”? Of those who answered this question, 61% preferred October 12. Mr. Thomas closed by asking if there were any questions. As there were no questions, Ms. Buchman thanked Mr. Thomas for his presentation.

After Mr. Thomas’ presentation, Linda Buchman and Becky Wuerth, Community Relations Specialist, moved on to discussing with the District Improvement Team the results of both calendar surveys. Ms. Buchman explained that the calendars chosen by the DIT tonight would be recommended to Dr. Muri and ultimately submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Looking at the 2019/2020 Calendar options, Ms. Buchman noted the strong majority preference for Option 1 from the survey. She opened the floor for discussion. After a reminder from Trustee Chris Vierra about the students who would miss the first several days of school attending Camp Ozark Camp for All, Mary Reed motioned to adopt Calendar Option 1 for the 2019/2020 school year. The motion was seconded, and Ms. Buchman called for a vote. The DIT unanimously voted on Calendar Option 1 as its recommendation for the 2019/20 school year.

Moving on to the 2020/2021 calendar, Ms. Buchman reminded the DIT that Option 1 won by a small margin in the survey, but asked the DIT to consider Option 2 because the respondent breakdown showed Option 2 was preferred by administrators and teachers. This was followed by a robust conversation, with a number of DIT members voicing their preference for Option 2. Ms. Buchman asked if there were more questions or comments, before calling for a vote between Calendar Options 1 and 2. Option 1 received two votes, while Option 2 received, 13 votes. Based on the outcome of this vote, Calendar Option 2 for the 2020/2021 school year will be the DIT recommendation.

Ms. Buchman then summarized the calendar discussion, stating for the 2019/2020 calendar the DIT will recommend Option 1 and for the 2020/2021 calendar the DIT will recommend Option 2. She then thanked the DIT for their hard work in coming to these recommendations. She also thanked Becky Wuerth and Mike Thomas for their time and turned the agenda over to Dr. Muri for the District Update.

District Update

Dr. Scott Muri thanked the DIT for their work on the calendar and moved into a district update. The main focus of this update was to inform the DIT on what could happen when the Legislature returns to Session in January, specifically regarding Recapture and school finance in general.

Closing

Following Dr. Muri’s district update, Ms. Buchman stated that the DIT would not meet in December. She reminded them of the two meeting opportunities in January – both the regular first-Thursdays DIT Meeting, and the January Joint Public Hearing of the DIT and District regarding the TAPR report.