



**District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting  
Thursday, October 3, 2019  
MINUTES**

**Member Attendance:** Paula Baker, Crystal Fain, Molly Ferguson, Charlotte Fisher, Chris Gonzalez, Tammy Hampton, Shaundra Jacobs, Rahil Jagetia, John Kenna, Noel Lezama, Michelle Marcil, Tania Moreira, Clifford Nickel, Angelica Oprea, Karen Peck, Christian Rice, Dan Tatulescu, Kristen Craft, Michelle Garcia, Jennifer Blaine

**Percent of DIT Members in Attendance:** 48.8%

**Non-member Attendance:** Linda Buchman, Katie Redd and Tyra Walker

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Linda Buchman welcomed the DIT committee to the October meeting. Committee members provided a quick introduction of themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Linda Buchman asked DIT members to review the September meeting minutes. As the committee recommended no additional changes, Tammy Hampton motioned to approve the minutes. Paula Baker and Molly Ferguson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**SBISD Guidance and Counseling Services:**

Kristin Craft, Associate Superintendent for Academics, introduced Tyra Walker, Director of Counseling and Student Support Services. Ms. Walker provided the DIT with an overview of the Counseling and Student Support Services Department, highlighting the different strands of their team and its impact on students throughout the district. Ms. Walker and her team are implementing a strong foundation, providing social emotional supports and empowering students with the ability to problem solve, and be prepared to move forward for post-secondary success.

Ms. Walker also discussed the impact of the latest legislative session on guidance and counseling. Ms. Walker acknowledged the impact the Legislature made with extended support for mental health needs of students. She discussed Senate Bill 11 (SB11), House Bill 18 (HB18), and House Bill 1026 (HB1026). She also reviewed the Texas Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Model. For the first time, the state is requiring all school districts to comply with the

model's four components: guidance curriculum, individual planning, responsive services and system support.

DIT Members asked and Ms. Walker responded to questions regarding trauma training for teachers and staff, responses for students dealing with trauma, behavior supports for elementary students, and supports for newcomers dealing with language and cultural barriers.

Following Ms. Walker's presentation, Linda Buchman introduced Dr. Jennifer Blaine, Superintendent of Schools to provide a district update.

**Superintendent Update:**

Following additional comments regarding mental health training for teachers, Dr. Blaine provided a brief district update. She noted the Board of Trustees had passed the new district tax rate, which is approximately 7 cents lower than last year's tax rate. She also confirmed there has not been, nor is there intended to be, any tax increase related to the 2017 Bond. Dr. Blaine also discussed the launch of the LEADSIBSD program. The Board of Trustees initiative is focused on growing community leaders within the district and will begin with 28 individuals selected by lottery.

Dr. Blaine also spoke about a new literacy initiative, ReadSBISD, that is launching this school year. ReadSBISD is an umbrella community literacy initiative encompassing two new programs: Reading Buddies and Reading Roundup. Reading Buddies, a reading tutoring program, is being piloted at Spring Branch Elementary, with tutors reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. Katie Redd provided an overview of the Reading Roundup program, in partnership with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation. This classroom-reading volunteer program will launch in November at Spring Shadows, Edgewood and Buffalo Creek elementary schools.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.