



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Meeting start time: 5:02 pm

Meeting end time: 6:08 pm

Current Member Attendance

Paula Baker, Jennifer Blaine, Tamesha Bullock, Carrie Campbell-Bishop, Kristin Craft, Ivonne Davis, Crystal Fain, Molly Ferguson, Charlotte Fisher, Tammy Hampton, Mary Hand, Tamma Howell, Shaundra Jacobs, Rahil Jagetia, John Kenna, Meg Maguire, Leslie Marquez, Clifford Nickel, Angelica Oprea, Karen Peck, John Pisklak, Christian Rice, Holly Saunders, Betty Smith, Dan Tatulescu, Jennifer Thorpe

Percent of current DIT members in attendance: 63%

Incoming Member Attendance

Lisse Colon Melendez, Anne Daily, Laura Dawson, Vanya Karia, Julie Knapp, Noemi Lopez, Buffie Matthews, Mimi Meacham, Nicolas Papadacos, Vicky Putnam-Frayser, Laura Radich, William Schwartz, Jennifer Stuart, Van Tran, Julie Turrentine, Kate Waldorf

Non-Member Attendance

Amy Accardo, Rebecca Brown, Linda Buchman, Lawanda Coffee, Joyce Evans, Christine Porter, Stephanie Sandifer, Lance Stallworth, Tyra Walker, Becky Wuerth

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Jennifer Blaine, Superintendent, opened with a brief update on 2020 graduation plans. Noting recent guidance from the Governor and TEA, Spring Branch will proceed with outdoor graduation ceremonies in June. Additionally, the district will participate in the City of Houston's 2020 Virtual Graduation program for all seniors. Plans are commencing for both now.

Dr. Blaine also noted the launch of SBISD's Strategic Planning process and discussed how the DIT will be engaged in that important work.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Linda Buchman, Associate Superintendent for Community Relations, took over and welcomed the incoming DIT members, while also thanking outgoing members for their service. She stated that the minutes from the March meeting were posted on the DIT website and would be distributed electronically to those who attended in March. Approval of March minutes will happen by email vote.

(Minutes were subsequently approved by email with 9 of 12 attendees responding affirmatively.)

ESSA Update

Ms. Lawanda Coffee, Director of External Funds, presented an overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act. This included a description of all four categories of Title funds, how they are used, and what dollar amounts are allocated for the 2020-21 school year. Budget plans must align with both district and TEA priorities.

Calendar Subcommittee

Dr. Lance Stallworth, Executive Director for Student Support Services, and Ms. Becky Wuerth, Communications Specialist, jointly discussed the DIT's role in the district's calendar development process. This included a call for volunteers for the DIT Calendar Subcommittee, which will begin meeting in June. This group will draft calendars for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. Drafts will be narrowed to two and presented to the full DIT in September for consideration. Ms. Wuerth mentioned that an email invitation would be sent the following day, and several members expressed interest in participation via the Zoom chat function.

Academics Update

Dr. Kristin Craft, Associate Superintendent for Academics, gave the final presentation, focusing on instructional continuity work during the Covid-19 closure. Dr. Craft explained how the elements of the Digital Backpack were built to support student learning, and also highlighted the social/emotional resources available there for parents and families. She described how the district also continues to support teachers and school leaders with e-learning training to help them function and feel comfortable in this new virtual space. Several members of the group noted in the chat function that the resources provided in the Backpack are very robust. Finally, Dr. Craft reviewed scenarios for how a fall re-entry may look depending on future guidance from TEA.

Highlighting SBISD's Literacy priority, Dr. Craft introduced Ms. Joyce Evans, Director for Elementary Humanities. Ms. Evans gave a brief overview of how Humanities works to fill the gaps during distance learning, stating that two things must be done well: 1) Building Community/Meeting Families; and 2) Virtual Teaching. She highlighted strategies that the Humanities team is using to achieve both goals. Finally, she introduced a video of a community volunteer Reading Buddy doing a recorded read-aloud to her student buddy, along with the student's video response and reaction.

Closing

Ms. Buchman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and noting again that emails would be sent regarding March minutes and the Calendar Subcommittee. The meeting concluded at 6:08pm.