



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 7-12

Educational Improvement Committee

Minutes for the Meeting of March 29, 2021

Attendance

From STPA: *Patricia Ayala Gonzalez, Laura Cavazos, Cassandra Garcia, Robert Schmidt*

From Rising Scholars: *Cynthia Wilson, Brian Arriola, Juan Hinojosa, Fernando Andrade*

From World Scholars: *Kimberly Garza, Virginia Leonardelli, May Blanco, William Prock, Isabel Valdez*

From Medical Professions: *Patricia Hernandez, Eva Williamson, Gilberto Arreola, Hanani Vasquez, Mayela Solana, Herlinda Robles*

From Health Professions: *Ileana Garcia-Spitz, Lois Bauer, Rachel Puckett*

From Science Academy: *Lucinda Wiley, Alfredo Aguilera, Luis Gasca, Elizabeth Arriola, Ana Cortez*

Science Academy Student: *Raquel Rubiano*

STISD Campus Principals: *Jose Lucio (Assistant Principal of Medical Professions), Janis De Luna (Assistant Principal of Science Academy), Criselda Rodriguez (Principal of Rising Scholars), Janie Ortiz (Principal of World Scholars), Marcos Flores (Principal of Health Professions), Ana Castro (Principal of South Texas Preparatory Academy)*

From Administration: *Mr. Efrain Garza (Executive Director of Student Support), Mrs. Nereyda Trevino (Chief Academic Officer)*

NOTE: All reports and document referenced in the Minutes below are to be found in the relevant EIC folder, <https://www.stisd.net/about/educational-improvement-council-eic>

Minutes

1. Welcome: STISD Superintendent Dr. Lara was absent so the meeting was presided over by EIC *Chairperson Virginia Leonardelli*. The meeting was called to order at 4:16 pm and she welcomed the members of the Committee.
2. Approval of March 8, 2021 EIC Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Leonardelli mentioned that one correction was needed to be made to the March 8, 2021 EIC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Luis Gasca was marked absent when he was present to the meeting. No other changes were made by the committee. Since there were no further corrections, the minutes were approved by Mrs. Leonardelli as corrected.
3. 2020-2021 School Calendar: Mr. Efrain Garza addressed the Committee about how the calendar was updated in order to accommodate our students and so that the start date for classes would not conflict with the testing days of Summer II for UTRGV-enrolled STISD students. Mr. Garza stated how Dr. Lara had approved of two alternative calendars. Each campus EIC members with their campus administrators met to discuss and vote on the alternative of their choice. On behalf of STPA, Mrs. Castro stated that 6 members met and voted on Calendar B. On behalf of World Scholars, Mrs. Ortiz stated that 6 members met and voted on Calendar B. On behalf of Medical Professions, Mr. Lucio stated that 6 members met and voted on Calendar B. On behalf of Health Professions, Mr. Flores stated that 4 members met and voted on Calendar B. On behalf of Rising Scholars Academy, Mrs. Rodriguez stated that 4 members met and voted on Calendar B. On behalf of Science Academy, Mrs. De Luna stated that 5 members met and voted on calendar B.
4. Junior High 2-Year Plan & High School 3-Year Plan for Academic Covid19 Slide: Mr. Garza addressed the committee and stated how our STISD teachers did a tremendous job teaching during this pandemic period and that we are 'doing it right at STISD'. It is important for STISD faculty and staff to get ready to help our incoming students that may be behind and get them caught up. Each STISD school has been tasked with coming up with a plan to catch our students up and get them to our STISD standards. Our STISD Junior High Schools have a 2-year plan and the STISD High Schools have 3-year plans to help our students. Teachers will also be given a chance to help contribute to the developing STISD design framework. This framework is currently in the works but will be addressed and discussed in future EIC meetings.
5. Academy for Teaching and Learning Update: Committee members were informed by Mrs. Trevino that there will be a Teaching and Learning Academy for professional development available for our STISD Professional Staff. It will take place from May 31, 2021 to June 3, 2021. It will incorporate strategies to help prepare framework for STISD campuses to get our students caught up and up to STISD student standards. This Teaching and Learning Academy will be brought before the STISD School Board in the next meeting to be approved. Upon approval, teachers will be asked to register. All teachers who register and participate in this professional development will receive a stipend in June 2021. Teachers are encouraged to register in order to allocate money to prepare the stipend for teachers who attend. The professional development will be divided by subject and will be content specific. The Teaching and Learning Academy will be separate from STISD Curriculum Writing. STISD Curriculum Writing will take place from June 7 to June 17, 2021.
6. Motion to adjourn was made at 4:46 pm

William Prock (temporary EIC Secretary)-March 29, 2021