



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

Educational Improvement Council (EIC) Minutes

Nilda Camarena – STPA | Annalisa Salinas – STPA | Kathleen Gavino – World Scholars | Hanani Vasquez – Medical Professions | Francisco Vasquez – Medical Professions | Katherine Castaneda – Health Professions

Loryn Rodriguez – Health Professions | Enrique De Leon – Rising Scholars | Ricardo Benavidez – Rising Scholars | Magda Gonzalez – Science Academy | Alyssa Perez – Science Academy | Dulce Martinez – Virtual Academy

James Galvan – Virtual Academy | Maria Garza – Professional Representative | Wilmer Romero – Professional Non-Teaching

To be named – District Level Professional | Denise Garcia – RSA Parent | To be named – Health Professions Parent

Roy Gonzales – Community Member | Ruben Ramirez – Community Member | Selene Diaz – Business Member

To be named – Business Member

Meeting led by: Persident Loryn Rodriguez, Ms. Trevino & Director of Student Support Efrain Garza

Meeting Notes for the month of: December

Time started: 5:01 pm

Welcome:

Minutes: committee reviewed the notes from previous meetings

- Ms. Sonia Rodriguez emailed the agenda and the minutes from last month from November 2021
- James Galvan Motioned to approve the minutes
- Hannai Vasquez Second the motion to approve the minutes for the month of November

School Calendar: Mr. Garza showed the two different calendars that were offered to the campuses. The 7 campuses met to take a vote, and all campuses wanted Calendar A as the 2022-2023 calendar. EIC will vote to approve the votes. James Galvan motioned to approve the minutes and Ms, Martinez second to motion. There was no discussion held to review the calendar. The Calendar for 2022-2023 school year was officially approved.

Course sequence: Ms. Trevino

- We need to work on getting approval on some of our programs of study. In January we will vote to approve the course sequence(s).
- Programs of study are CTE courses that TEA allows students to study. We have always offered CTE courses but we did not have a direct sequence for these courses. We offer 10/14 different CTE courses/clusters of the programs of study. Within the clusters we offer various courses 23 different programs of study (some are new).
- Next year there will be some changes in the Junior high school, we want to offer more at the HS level, and to make that happen we would need to bring some of the courses down to the Middle school level.
- JRHS students will be exposed to many different courses of study offered at the HS level within our district. To retain students, we want them to “buy in” to our district and ensure they complete their program of study.
- Next meeting, we will look at the different course sequences and the changes that were made were to support some of the programs of study that are offered at the JHS.

Programs of study: insert notes

- The changes made are to ensure we are adjusting to the needs of students and to align with CTE courses. This effort started a few years ago. TEA noticed students need to graduate with technology and industry-based skills (it used to be called vocational studies and now it is CTE). If students take courses that are aligned in one sequence of study, they will graduate with more

skills needed and more expertise for the workplace/postsecondary skills. The district will receive more funding for CTE programs if the students complete these programs of study.

- The funding we receive for students completing these CTE programs of study, STISD will use that funding to grow and expand those CTE programs by purchasing more equipment, hiring more CTE teachers, expanding programs, etc.
- We are now moving to becoming a middle school (instead of Junior High) so the students will have the opportunity to take introductory classes to different specialized classes that are offered in our high schools so students can make sure they continue their programs of study with our high school.
- The purpose is to ensure we are making our district marketable by offering the most diverse opportunities for students to develop soft skills and preparing them for college and the workforce.
- If students can complete their intro courses for the programs of study at the high school level, then students can have extra time and opportunities to gain experience, internships, and partnerships within STISD and our community, they can have internship hours.
- We want students to have the most opportunities and a variety of experience.

District of Innovation Renewal: the current plan will expire at the end of this school year.

- We want to create a committee to create the new district of innovation plan. The committee will have 6 people from EIC.
- District of innovation- a district can apply to provide some flexibility for schools. The 4th Monday of August is the earliest a school can start; as a district of innovation, one of the things we can offer is a flexible start date; which is why we are starting the second week of August. We are also allowed to locally certify teachers in CTE, for example a dentist who wants to become a teacher can locally certify that person to teach those courses.
- This committee that will partake in the renewal committee will have the ability to look at the permissions of districts of innovation and create the plan for the district.
- 4 volunteers have been selected: Frank Acevedo, Dulce Martinez, James Galvan, and Enrique De Leon.
- The first meeting for the renewal will be held in January.

Review Success Framework: We will review the framework next meeting, we are explaining it today.

- Modeled after an effective school's framework developed by TEA.
- TEA created their framework to assist schools in need, and since we are not in need, we made a framework for acceleration. It was created and adopted the same year that COVID19 hit. We did not give adequate attention and time to implement the framework. We will meet next month to review the framework thoroughly and we will select which strand of the framework we want to focus on, and it will be included in the strategic plan.
- Campus improvement plans will let the community know what we are offering, where our funding is going and what we are doing for our students.

Next meeting is January 11th, 2022

Motion to end meeting, Frank Acevedo Second to motion, by Hannai Vasquez

Meeting adjourned; Time ended 5:39 pm