



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

Educational Improvement Council (EIC) Minutes

Glenda Espinoza – STPA Annalisa Salinas – STPADr. Ana Villarreal – World Scholars Thomas Sanchez – World Scholars Hanani Vasquez – Medical Professions Francisco Vasquez – Medical Professions Paola Salazar – Health Professions Arely Gonzalez – Health Professions Enrique De Leon – Rising Scholars Ricardo Benavidez – Rising Scholars Aaron Longoria – Science Academy Alyssa Perez – Science Academy Dulce Martinez – Virtual Academy James Galvan – Virtual Academy Maria Garza – Professional Representative Wilmer Romero – Professional Non-Teaching Lacy Holocker – District Level Professional Allison Alvarado – RSA Parent Imelda Alvarado – HP Parent Alberto Roy Gonzales – SA Community Member Ruben Herrera – WS Community Member Selene Diaz – STPA Business Member Francisco Acevedo – MP Business Member Anabel Morales – MP Business Member

Meeting led by: Dr. N. Trevino on 11/1/2022

Meeting Notes for the month of: November 2022

Time started: 5:05 pm

Topic one: Welcome and EIC Schedule

We all should have access to the schedule since it was emailed out to all EIC members. They will be held once a month, and it is usually the first Tuesday of every month.

Proposed Dates for the 2022-2023 school year.

12/13, 1/17, 2/8, 3/8*, (up for review) 4/4, and 5/2

Make sure you try your best to attend every meeting so you can share your campus' feedback by voting in this committee. We then go back to our campus and share that information with the campus principals. We vote on the decisions that are proposed to the district and relay that information to the campus teachers and leaders to inform them of changes.

Mrs. Loryn Rodriguez motions to accept the schedule with the one exception for 3/8, Mr. Benavidez motions to approve, Hannai Vazquez seconds the motion, and the calendar is accepted.

Topic 2: 2022-2023 Pathways

We have partnered with UTRGV, and we have special types of collegiate pathways with UTRGV. They understand the needs of the students in our district, and our campus' specialties. They are working on finalizing pathways for our students to take college-level courses in their 11th and 12th grade year. They complete all core classes from UTRGV, and they can also take classes specializing in their minor so they can work towards gaining college credits, while in high school. Our partnership is unique because we get specialty pathways offered that other schools might not.

HP and MP: BS in integrated health science.

Science Academy: Computer Science, Engineering

World Scholars: Criminal Justice-TBD, Computer Science, & Business

These credits will be accepted across all UT campuses within the UT system (UT Austin/UT Arlington, etc.). The course selections are specific to their pathways, students can receive their associate's degree with this UTRGV partnership.

Topic 3: 2023-2024 Calendar:

We need to plan some things ahead of time so we can plan accordingly with UTRGV's calendar. We need to vote to submit these calendars for so the campuses can vote. Principals have already been made aware the teachers will provide feedback on their calendar preference.

Calendar A: is the same as the 2022-2023 school year, Labor Day, Columbus day, week for thanksgiving and 2.5 weeks for Christmas breaks.

We have 2 days in February. We end on 5/16 with one week of pd at the end of school year.

Calendar B: Frontload PD in the beginning of the school year, about 2 weeks of PD and one day off for teacher work day. One PD in October, one day in November, 2.5 weeks in Christmas, one work day upon return PD day and holiday in February, spring break and easter in March, we end on 23rd of May.

We will be voting to approve that these two calendars are submitted for campus' votes. Carmen [secretary] will share the documents that were presented for this meeting. The information on the left-hand side might be updated before they are sent out to the campus.

EIC Member: The issue of HB4545 was brought up as a concern. How can we ensure we are meeting the HB4545 issues for the summer schedule?

Response by Dr. Trevino: "They would not be affected because summer school will always be completed a week after we finish our school year."

Question asked by EIC member "Do we have data on how our "early start" has affected our student attendance and data?"

Answered by Dr. Trevino: "We have mixed data, we started early because we wanted to match idea and we wanted to compete with idea so parents can send their children to school as soon as possible. We saw a small spike in enrollment but we do not know if it was sufficient enough. We also want to start the calendar so they can line up with the UTRGV courses."

Overall feedback from EIC member(s): The teachers mentioned the issue of the students enrolling late, and not having enough time to catch the kids up for the loss of instruction. We want to make sure that we can close all the gaps with our students and when they enroll late, it's hard to catch them up when they enroll late.

EIC Member: Some of the HS students had to stay home because they had to take care of their siblings so we had a lot of late enrollment. Their home districts started really late, so they cannot attend school so early. How can we make that better next year?

Response by Dr. Trevino: We need to make sure to Market and communicate better with our community and stakeholders. We plan to bring a new marketing plan for approval by the EIC committee in the future. We are working on getting better with communication to stakeholders so they can be informed about when they can send their students back to school.

If we choose calendar B we have more time to prepare for meet the teacher night. This year it was rushed and we felt it because we did not have a lot of time to plan/prepare for the parents.

EIC member asked about clarification about the PD that will be offered for BOY vs EOY in the calendar proposal(s). Will they be the same or different types of PD?

Answered by Dr. Trevino: If PD is at the EOY; as seen in Calendar A we have a week of PD at the end of the year; the focus will be curriculum development. The PD planned for the end and the beginning of the year, will be different – if it is at the end of the year, it will be for curriculum—building on what we have created these past few years; we are just going to “tweak” it now.

If we have PD in the BOY; As seen in calendar B there are two weeks of PD in the beginning of the year; we will frontload- we plan to go to canvas next year and train teachers on that new school platform and other school items that are new to district. That’s when we train all the teachers on the new platforms rolled out for the year and the curriculum writing will happen in

the summer with teachers applying to create/write/develop the curriculum in the summer.

EIC Member asks: So, we cannot write curriculum in the beginning of the school year?

Answered by Dr. Trevino: Usually we do not write the curriculum in the BOY because they want to make their copies, it is best for the curriculum to be set because they want to do copies, and syllabus.

Topic 4: Teacher incentive allotment:

Ms. Frausto is leading the TIA committee and Dr. T is co-sharing the initiative. We applied last year and did not get approved, so we are going to apply again this year and we are awaiting approval. There are other districts who have applied several times so it is normal to apply multiple times. We hired consultants who are specialists in the TIA application process, completed stakeholder activities, and are involved in getting districts approved for TIA so we are starting the process. We started a committee (20+teachers, admin, and staff) to develop the plan and the evaluation system.

This committee will be hearing a lot about the updates for TIA application and process during these EIC meetings every month. We will go to the campus and explain where we are, what we are doing and explain the plan. The TIA plan will be developed by the teachers. The committee is mostly all teachers and they will create the rollout plan – the other plan that will be created with the help of teachers is the evaluation part for TIA.

Conclude our agenda:

Motion to end meeting, Mr. Galvan. Second to motion, by Ms. Salazar.

Meeting adjourned; Time ended 5:33 pm