



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 7-12

Educational Improvement Committee

Minutes for the Meeting of January 13, 2020

Attendance

From STPA: *Isabel Rodriguez, Cassandra Garcia, Robert Schmidt*

From Rising Scholars: *Juan Hinojosa, Fernando Andrade, Jeanette McKinney, Amy Pena, Brian Arriola*

From World Scholars: *Kimberly Garza, Patty Herrera, Isabel Valdez, William Prock, Virginia Leonardelli*

From Medical Professions: *Herlinda Robles, Jose Colon, Patricia Hernandez, Gilberto Arreola, Hanani Vasquez*

From Health Professions: *Maria Nevares, Ileana Garcia-Spitz, Lois Bauer, Yael Leal, Stephany Bauer*

From Science Academy: *Michelle Guajardo, Lucinda Wiley, Elizabeth Arriola, Lorena Madrigal, Michael Overton*

Medical Professions Parent: *Luz Zamora*

Medical Professions Student: *Diego Alvear*

Business Representative: *Patricia M. Blanco, Ph. D.*

From Administration: *Mr. Jeff Hembree (Deputy Superintendent)*

NOTE: All reports and document referenced in the Minutes below are to be found in the relevant EIC folder, http://www.stisd.net/about_us/district_councils_committees/educational_improvement_council_e_i_c

Minutes

1. Welcome: EIC Chairperson *Virginia Leonardelli* called the meeting to order shortly after 5:00 pm and welcomed the members of the Committee.
2. Approval of October 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Leonardelli called for a motion to recommend the minutes for the previous meeting on October 7, 2019. Mr. Colon motioned to accept and then it was seconded. The vote to accept minutes passed. Committee members were informed that Dr. Lara was not present for the meeting due to having the flu. Mr. Jeff Hembree, Deputy Superintendent, announced that he would be presiding over the meeting and going through the items on the January 13, 2020 agenda.

3. Report on Advanced Placement Program and Dual Enrollment: Committee members were informed that this report was done every year. It lists all our Honors (formerly Pre-AP), AP, IB courses. It looks at course to pull into your school's course offerings. This report is several pages long. It shows the total of number of students in sections. It is used to monitor classes and exams.
4. Report on College Entrance Scores: It also comes out of the folder found under the EIC link under Accountability in the STISD website. Committee members were informed that it is done for the current graduating class. It is the first year for doing during-the-school-day SAT and from this, the number of students participating has gone up. The average SAT score for the District was 1090 (down from 1115) but this was due to the additional participation in the during-the-school-day SAT. There is a larger number of students for taking the SAT over the ACT. The average for ACT Composite was 21.8. The report also shows scores for each STISD campus. The criterion for SAT and ACT-1110 for SAT or higher than 24 ACT composite, respectively. Committee members were informed that the level of course content leads to higher scores is a correlation of studies over the past 30 to 40 years. The highest correlation of SAT and ACT is student socioeconomic background and students are impacted by their exposure to travel, educational experiences, etc. The focus is not to be solely on exam scores but on other factors like student socioeconomic background.
5. Review Campus Target Populations for 2020-2021 School Year: Committee members were informed that this information is also in the folder, starting on page 2. Size of the campus for high schools, the target population is 775 students, for middle schools, the target population is 575 students and for World Scholars due to population, the target population is 625 students. Screening and open enrollment left in place. Students cannot start at an STISD campus if they have not served a DACP from their previous school or if they have not been promoted from one grade level to another. Student enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis.
6. Review the 2019-2020 District & Campus Improvement Plans: These will be done in a meeting in a couple of weeks, late January 2020. Campus district plans are there and serve as foundation for federal spending for Campus Improvement Plans. The initiation of requisition of federal funds have to show where it is found on the Campus Improvement Plan. This gives indication of priorities of campus-administration to work with campus improvement committees. Committee members were informed that Mr. Hembree is meeting with Assistant Principals on January 14, 2020 to discuss campus improvement plans.
7. District and Campus Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR): These TAPR reports are released every December. They are based on the previous year. District and campus results are available under the TAPR data in the folder. The TAPR reports also focus on items like STAAR results as well as areas not seen commonly like 4 year, 5 year, 6 year graduation rates, graduation plans, graduate profiles, college readiness measures, trying to track graduates in college in their first year to see how they did, AP/IB results, SAT results, dual credit information, all students, class size (which is compared across the state), staff information.
8. Review the Following Proposed Actions:
 - a) Science Academy
 1. Proposed Courses
 - a) Art II not Art I as found in the Agenda from the STISD website and folder
 - b) Request for a Digital Art Media course entailing coordination with Med. High and would call for the use of existing teachers
 2. Program of Academic Excellence via Externships (P.A.E.2)
 - a) New course that would be community based would allow for students with room in their schedules to be tracked starting their junior year. Students would be in a non-paid internship in their community, working in an area of personal interest. There would be a

coordinator who would gather information from the community partner with whom the student would be working. The student would work with the community partner and at the end of the time worked they would present a project. Only a select group of students would get to participate.

3. Summer at Brown Pre-College Program
 - a) This takes place at Brown University.
 - b) It would be for only three students for right now.
 - c) Brown University does not use grades according to Mr. Hembree.
4. Logic Classes
 - a) These would be offered as Logic I and Logic II at Science Academy
 - b) They would come after Pre-Cal. and Calculus.
 - c) It would call for students who are interested and would require the use of teachers with this background.
 - d) What is known is how many are eligible for these courses due to the math sequence but what is not known is how many students are interested.
 - e) Teachers for the logic courses will be trained at Stanford University.
5. Sci-Tech is offering an Earth and Space Science course as an elective

b) World Scholars

1. Proposed Courses
 - a) Law Enforcement II-law enforcement program is doing well at World Scholars according to Mr. Hembree and the district is looking to build the program out.
 - b) Court Systems and Practices
 - c) Robotics I and Robotics II are going to be offered but need to have students interested in robotics, and it is important to send recommendations to the STISD School Board.
2. UTSA Criminal Justice Summer Camp

**Mr. Schmidt motioned to approved the new courses and Mr. Areolla seconded the motion.*

9. 2020-2021 Draft School Calendar: What has changed is our time in that there is only two more EIC meetings, one March 9th and the other May 11th. There is a need to have conversations about calendar for next year. Reference to the School Draft Work Copy in the folder is important. Committee members were informed that we speak to students about what is going on. There are three items that are to be addressed: The first item is to include proposed start date, end date, holidays and testing, most of which is already in the 2020-2021 calendar. The second item is to look at what is missing like official start and end dates as well as staff development dates. Staff development days are to be interspersed throughout the year. The third item is to note that the state, four years ago, changed from looking at the number of days to the number of minutes. Many districts across the state want to lengthen the day but TEA says it still has to be 187 calendar days.
10. District Staff Development Planning: Second Measure for 2020-2021: For Staff Development Days, teachers need to look at helping come up with topics. Committee members were informed that it was important to put together ideas and then have justifications for these ideas and that this information is to be sent to Mr. Hembree and to Dr. Lara. It is important to recognize developmental days and state the days and their justifications but note that these suggestions would be taken into consideration. Also, it is important to focus on how teachers and staff are to get content of staff development into conversations about developmental days. The goal is to come up with good ideas. In the District Innovation Plan, there is 'blended learning' but it has not been implemented yet. *Mr. Schmidt (STPA)* brought up 'discipline' as a topic to be discussed and said the '7 Habits' needs to be adopted and he also mentioned 'body, mind and spirit'. *Mrs. Wiley (SA)* suggested that we need to buy in to the '7 Habits' because teachers need to be 'wellness counselors' to our students and need training to address different student health issues.

Feedback may happen for the Second Measure, which is about innovative instruction. Committee members were informed that if content leads itself to front-loaded days, then it would be on front-loaded days. If not, then it is important to seek alternative approaches.

11. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 6:16 pm

William Prock

EIC Secretary

January 13, 2020