



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 7-12

Educational Improvement Committee

Minutes for the Meeting of March 9, 2020

Attendance

From STPA: Isabel Rodriguez, Ruben Leo, Joscelyn Alejandro, Lilia Liguez, Cassandra Garcia, Robert Schmidt

From Rising Scholars: Christopher Wiley, Janette McKinney, Brian Arriola, Juan Hinojosa

From World Scholars: Kimberly Garza, Virginia Leonardelli, May Blanco, Jeffrey Pierce, William Prock

From Medical Professions: Mayela Solana, Patricia Hernandez, Gilberto Arreola

From Health Professions: Stephany Bauer, Maria Nevares, Ileana Garcia-Spitz, Yael Leal, Fernando Almaguer, M.D.

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

Medical Professions Parent: Luz Zamora

STPA Parent: Elena Rashid

Community Member: Tina Atkins, Ph.D.

From Administration: Dr. Tony Lara (Superintendent), 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](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 at 5:00 pm and welcomed the members of the Committee.
2. Approval of January 13, 2020 & February 12, 2020 Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Leonardelli first called for a motion to recommend the minutes for the previous EIC Committee meeting on January 13, 2020. Mr. Schmidt motioned to accept, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Overton. The vote to accept minutes passed. Mrs. Leonardelli next called for a motion to recommend the minutes for the Sub-

Committee meeting that took place on February 12, 2020. Mrs. Hernandez motioned to accept, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Arreola.

3. Review the following Proposed Actions

- Science Academy Half-Day Program Course Additions:
 - Occupational Safety and Environmental Technology I
 - Small Engine Technology II
- Science Academy Camps
 - Camp SOAR at Texas A & M University (College Station)

*Mr. Hembree introduced the motions for each of these proposed actions for these programs. The focus of these actions would be on the mechanics program which would allow for our students to be able to advance in the courses in these programs in two, three, and even four years. Due to rapid student advancement on some of these courses, other courses would be added to the sequence in order to increase student opportunity to participate in these programs. Some students entering these programs advance quickly while others come in with previous experience. Camp SOAR will take place at College Station during the summer. According to Mr. Hembree, this program would indeed be beneficial due to the opportunity it would provide for our students. A vote for the approval of the program was made known and all parties present voted for approval for the Board.

4. 2020-2021 Campus Course Sequences: Dr. Lara and Mr. Hembree explained that the Course Sequences are done in March of every year by each campus in STISD. It allows for communication by the school with students and parents about courses that students would have the opportunity to take. Mr. Hembree mentioned some of the course changes taking place within some of the schools in the district to target areas of interests for students such as artificial intelligence and robotics. These Course Sequences are viewed and then voted upon by the Board. Modifications can be made for individual students. Course Sequences serve as communication tools that enable for students to follow individualized learning plans as they advance in their coursework. Dr. Hembree stated that there needs to be more advanced electives available for our students that have advanced through their coursework. Three years ago, the District removed grade level off of high school Course Sequences to accommodate different levels of students based on individual students and their coursework advancement. These Course Sequences are a way we can work with our students and parents by establishing individualized student plans that show how far along students have advanced in their courses and what other courses and electives they can take. Mrs. Leonardelli then asked if there were any more questions, which there were not. She then had the committee vote and the motion passed, and it will be sent to the Board.

5. 2020-2021 Draft School Calendar: Committee members were informed that there was a Subcommittee which met on February 12, 2020. The Subcommittee worked through many different drafts of the calendar. They voted upon the current draft of the 2020-2021 Draft School Calendar which was shared before the March 9, 2020 EIC Committee during the EIC Committee Meeting. Mr. Hembree explained that the drafted calendar does meet T.E.A. requirements of 187 staff (teacher) workdays, including one workday on a Saturday in January (January 30). The shading of certain days in May on the calendar was asked about and addressed. Mr. Hembree explained that this year, Monday testing was eliminated but that AP and IB testing is still on Mondays. Also, there is an increase in various exams being taken by our students including state exams, AP exams, IB exams, and industry certification exams. STISD is giving more AP and IB exams than many 6A schools. Questions were asked about certain days in January including the January 30 (Saturday) workday. Dr. Lara and Mr. Hembree said that this day was a placeholder for the campus showcase event and was indeed flexible. Mrs. Leonardelli then asked if there were any more questions, which there were not. She then had the committee vote, the recommendation was made upon the affirmed vote, the motion passed, and it will be sent to the Board.

6. COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Dr. Lara addressed the Coronavirus issue that our country is currently facing. He emphasized that the members of the EIC Committee should share ideas about how to address this. The emphasis is that the District and its members need to continue to be aware and that safety of our students and staff is paramount. Dr. Lara stated that safety is first and that members of the District need to exercise caution when travelling. Mr. Hembree said that as educators, we need to be leaders for our students and educate them on things like practicing good hygiene and being careful about certain venues. We need to have conversations with our students and within our campuses about what to do and how we are going to do it. The most important thing is that we continue to keep our students informed but tell them that with the changing times, we must remain vigilant but not be afraid.

7. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 5: 41 pm.

William Prock

EIC Secretary

March 9, 2020