



Always Innovating

**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 7-12

Educational Improvement Committee Meeting

April 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Patricia Ayala Gonzalez – STPA

Cassandra Garcia – STPA

Jocelyn Alejandro – STPA

Robert Schmidt – STPA

Kimberly Garza – World Scholars

Isabel Valdez – World Scholars

Virginia Leonardelli – World Scholars

William Prock – World Scholars

Alejandra Luna – World Scholars

Patricia Hernandez – Medical Professions

Eva Williamson – Medical Professions

Hanani Vasquez – Medical Professions

Mayela Solana – Medical Professions

Herlinda Robles – Medical Professions

Aaron Flores – Health Professions

Ileana Garcia-Spitz – Health Professions

Lois Bauer – Health Professions

Jose Perez – Rising Scholars

Cynthia Wilson – Rising Scholars

Amy Pena – Health Professions

Brian Arriola – Rising Scholars

Juan Hinojosa – Rising Scholars

Fernando Andrade – Rising Scholars

Alfredo Aguilera – Science Academy

Luis Gasca – Science Academy

Elizabeth Arriola – Science Academy

Ana Cortez – Science Academy

Rachel Puckett – Health Professions

Michelle Guajardo – Science Academy

Lucinda Wiley – Science Academy

Campus Administrators

Marcos Flores – Health Professions

Criselda Rodriguez – Rising Scholars

Ana Castro - STPA

Janie Ortiz – World Scholars

Jose Lucio – Medical Professions

Lorena Madrigal – Science Academy

District Administration

Nereyda Trevino

Efrain Garza

TASA Auditor

Brian Ellis

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

- I. Welcome (meeting started at 4:16pm)
- II. Approval of March 29, 2021 EIC Meeting Minutes
 - a. Aaron Flores moved to approve minutes with corrections. Ms. Bauer seconded the motion and the minutes from March 29, 2021 were approved.
- III. TASA Audit Report
 - a. Brian Ellis present at the meeting and will present results of TASA Audit Report. Visited in the middle of January and observed classrooms.
 - b. Background and structure of audit:
 - i. Curriculum management audit; goal is to see how aligned curriculum is to assessments and instructional strategies
 - ii. Design and delivery at the campus level.
 - iii. Concern about losing autonomy when implementing a tightly aligned system. Some elements of instruction and curriculum are still held by campus. Assessment and objects are controlled by the district
 - iv. Control (policy), direction (curriculum), connectivity (opportunities for all students), feedback (assessment), productivity (resource management)
 - c. Strengths and challenges
 - i. Strengths
 1. Student achievement
 2. District and campus reputation

3. Unique college & career-oriented programming
 4. Strong financial position
 5. Dedicated and committed student and staff population
 6. High student expectations
- ii. Challenges:
 1. Jumpstart Curriculum development
 2. Competition from local school districts own magnet programs
 3. Diversity of students and student needs
 4. Need for systems
 5. Resistance to change
- d. Summary of findings
- i. Control: what are the structures in place that control the district (governance); accountability, mission and vision?
 1. STISD policy needs to be updated to provide for key functions of curriculum management
 - ii. Direction: curriculum management planning; existence of curriculum (scope/coverage); needs a curriculum management system. There is an absence of written curriculum for many course offerings and the written curriculum that is present does not provide sufficient direction for teaching consistently and effectively
 - iii. Consistency and Equity: equity and equality; instructional expectations; staff development and monitoring teachers who need support; STISD needs to develop clear expectations for instruction and needs coordinated plans for developing teachers and for monitoring/evaluating instructions;
 - iv. Feedback: assessment and data analysis and adjustments in curriculum based on data; STISD needs a plan for assessment evaluation. Many courses do not have an associated formal assessment from which to gather student achievement information and data use practices are inconsistent across the district.
 - v. Productivity: budgeting practices; programs and interventions; facilities. STISD is on solid financial footing but has not implemented budgetary practices based on cost benefit analysis and alignment to district goals and priorities
- e. Summary of recommendations (six recommendations)
- i. Develop a curriculum management system and create high-quality curriculum to guide instructions
 - ii. Develop a comprehensive assessment and program evaluation system and use the data produced by the system to improve student achievement across the district
 - iii. Develop a coordinated professional-development program
 - iv. Develop an instructional monitoring and evaluation system
 - v. Develop board policies that provide control over curriculum management functions in the district
 - vi. Develop budgetary practices that emphasize cost-benefit analysis and alignment with district and campus priorities.
- f. Final thoughts
- i. Lay the foundation; vision, beliefs, philosophy. What does great instruction look like? What does successful learning look like?
 - ii. Prioritize the areas needing attention: which conditions most adversely affect students?
 - iii. Which findings most adversely affect the system?
 - iv. Assemble a task force for each standard; charge each task force with developing an action plan for the next three years
 - v. Recognize effort
 - vi. Communicate and be transparent
 - vii. Remember, process is sometimes as important as the product
 - viii. Acknowledge progress
 - ix. Celebrate milestones and benchmarks

g. Findings will be shared with the community and will be shared on the website.

IV. Report on Waivers

- a. Waivers were submitted to TEA and the board. Hybrid instruction for K-8 students and 9-12 students relate to testing. Submitted to lessen impact of testing/COVID on student attendance and funding.
- b. Administrative/Teacher Appraisal Waiver: submitted a waiver to TEA to waive Domain 5 of teacher appraisal system, however, if evaluations took place, that data will remain in teacher's file.

V. Adjourn

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm (motion to adjourn Aaron Flores; second Patti Ayala Gonzalez)