



District Improvement Team

**Thursday, May 28, 2020
5:00 – 5:30 pm**

Via Zoom

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98532386519?pwd=UWN2Wm5YS1JDTmZmMSsvcjdqNW1kUT09>

AGENDA

Welcome

Linda Buchman, Associate Superintendent
for Community Relations

Approval of Minutes (May 2020)

Linda Buchman

District Update

Dr. Jennifer Blaine, SBISD Superintendent
of Schools

Request for Waivers

Christine Porter, Associate Superintendent
for Finance
Dr. Lance Stallworth, Executive Director
for Student Support Services
Dr. Keith Haffey, Executive Director for
Assessment and Compliance



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Meeting start time: 5:02 pm

Meeting end time: 6:08 pm

Current Member Attendance

Paula Baker, Jennifer Blaine, Tamesha Bullock, Carrie Campbell-Bishop, Kristin Craft, Ivonne Davis, Crystal Fain, Molly Ferguson, Charlotte Fisher, Tammy Hampton, Mary Hand, Tamma Howell, Shaundra Jacobs, Rahil Jagetia, John Kenna, Meg Maguire, Leslie Marquez, Clifford Nickel, Angelica Oprea, Karen Peck, John Pisklak, Christian Rice, Holly Saunders, Betty Smith, Dan Tatulescu, Jennifer Thorpe

Percent of current DIT members in attendance: 63%

Incoming Member Attendance

Lisse Colon Melendez, Anne Daily, Laura Dawson, Vanya Karia, Julie Knapp, Noemi Lopez, Buffie Matthews, Mimi Meacham, Nicolas Papadacos, Vicky Putnam-Frayser, Laura Radich, William Schwartz, Jennifer Stuart, Van Tran, Julie Turrentine, Kate Waldorf

Non-Member Attendance

Amy Accardo, Rebecca Brown, Linda Buchman, Lawanda Coffee, Joyce Evans, Christine Porter, Stephanie Sandifer, Lance Stallworth, Tyra Walker, Becky Wuerth

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Jennifer Blaine, Superintendent, opened with a brief update on 2020 graduation plans. Noting recent guidance from the Governor and TEA, Spring Branch will proceed with outdoor graduation ceremonies in June. Additionally, the district will participate in the City of Houston's 2020 Virtual Graduation program for all seniors. Plans are commencing for both now.

Dr. Blaine also noted the launch of SBISD's Strategic Planning process and discussed how the DIT will be engaged in that important work.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Linda Buchman, Associate Superintendent for Community Relations, took over and welcomed the incoming DIT members, while also thanking outgoing members for their service. She stated that the minutes from the March meeting were posted on the DIT website and would be distributed electronically to those who attended in March. Approval of March minutes will happen by email vote.

(Minutes were subsequently approved by email with 9 of 12 attendees responding affirmatively.)

ESSA Update

Ms. Lawanda Coffee, Director of External Funds, presented an overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act. This included a description of all four categories of Title funds, how they are used, and what dollar amounts are allocated for the 2020-21 school year. Budget plans must align with both district and TEA priorities.

Calendar Subcommittee

Dr. Lance Stallworth, Executive Director for Student Support Services, and Ms. Becky Wuerth, Communications Specialist, jointly discussed the DIT's role in the district's calendar development process. This included a call for volunteers for the DIT Calendar Subcommittee, which will begin meeting in June. This group will draft calendars for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. Drafts will be narrowed to two and presented to the full DIT in September for consideration. Ms. Wuerth mentioned that an email invitation would be sent the following day, and several members expressed interest in participation via the Zoom chat function.

Academics Update

Dr. Kristin Craft, Associate Superintendent for Academics, gave the final presentation, focusing on instructional continuity work during the Covid-19 closure. Dr. Craft explained how the elements of the Digital Backpack were built to support student learning, and also highlighted the social/emotional resources available there for parents and families. She described how the district also continues to support teachers and school leaders with e-learning training to help them function and feel comfortable in this new virtual space. Several members of the group noted in the chat function that the resources provided in the Backpack are very robust. Finally, Dr. Craft reviewed scenarios for how a fall re-entry may look depending on future guidance from TEA.

Highlighting SBISD's Literacy priority, Dr. Craft introduced Ms. Joyce Evans, Director for Elementary Humanities. Ms. Evans gave a brief overview of how Humanities works to fill the gaps during distance learning, stating that two things must be done well: 1) Building Community/Meeting Families; and 2) Virtual Teaching. She highlighted strategies that the Humanities team is using to achieve both goals. Finally, she introduced a video of a community volunteer Reading Buddy doing a recorded read-aloud to her student buddy, along with the student's video response and reaction.

Closing

Ms. Buchman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and noting again that emails would be sent regarding March minutes and the Calendar Subcommittee. The meeting concluded at 6:08pm.



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WAIVER REQUESTS

Instructional Materials Inventory Requirement Waiver: The Texas Education Agency allows for school districts to apply for a waiver of Instructional Materials Inventory Requirement for the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19 restrictions on campuses. Campuses will conduct initial audits to determine a baseline of missing inventory and will complete an official audit when allowed to return to campus.

Annual Financial Report (AFR) Due Date Extension Waiver: The Texas Education Agency allows for school districts with a June 30th year-end to apply for a waiver of Annual Financial Report Due Date for the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautionary measures. This would move the due date for submission from November 27th, 2020 to January 28, 2021.

Missed School Days Waiver: Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Texas Education Agency allows school districts to continue to count days toward the required 75,600 operational minutes, as long as they are preparing to offer remote instruction or delivering remote instruction. In order to ensure funding during this time, districts are required to submit a Missed School Day Waiver.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Waiver: The State of Texas requires all public high schools to provide students in grades 10-12 an annual opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) during the school day. In the spring semester of 2020, with schools closed for normal operations, not all SBISD high schools were able to meet this requirement. The Texas Education Agency has provided school districts the opportunity to apply for a one-year waiver from this requirement because of the extended time away from campuses.

Reading Assessments Waiver for Kindergarten and 7th Grade: Because of disruptions to the 2019-2020 school year and possible disruptions to the 2020-2021 school year resulting from COVID-19, districts may request a waiver of the requirement for the adoptions of new diagnostic reading instruments for the beginning-of-year screener for grades Kindergarten and 7. Approval of the waiver would allow for the continued use of the MAP assessment for this purpose.

Waiver of Parent Notice Requirements for Students at Risk of Failing: Texas school districts must provide early notice to parents/guardians of students in grades 4 and 7 who are identified to be at risk of failure on the first administration of an assessment required for grade advancement in the next school year. Because STAAR administrations for April, May, and June 2020 are cancelled, the at-risk determination must be made through means that do not involve state testing results from the current year. The current rule requires this notice to be issued before the end of a school year. If a district is unable to - or does not have sufficient information to make a determination about a student's risk of failure at this time – they may request a waiver to delay the notice requirement until the start of the 2020-2021 school year.