



La Vega ISD
District Quality Improvement Committee Minutes
Held In-Person 11/9/23

Presenter: Dr. Peggy Johnson, Sandra Gibson, Andre Watkins, Dr. Charla Rudd

Members: Hannah West, Lucy Almanza, Angela Ward, Dr. Sharon Shields, Melissa Bandy, Jimmy Grmela, Luci Almanza, Tia Barcelona

Other(s): Andrea Montoya, Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mrs. Sandra Gibson.

Welcome

Mrs. Gibson welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their participation.

Dr. Rudd stated that the purpose of DQIC is so that many individuals review the things that are set in place by the district. The committee's job is to review and give feedback to the board. In addition, there will be a board member, from the board of trustees, that will attend the meeting and the committee will advise them of the suggestions.

Purpose:

The District Quality Improvement (DQIC) advises and reviews the district's educational goals, objectives, and major district-wide classroom instructional programs identified by the Board or the Superintendent.

Discussion Items

Dr. Johnson shared information that the Vision in Action (VIA) committee. She stated that they are currently working on the district Improvement Plan (DIP). She stated that the DIP is a living document that provides direction to where we want to go and how we allocate funds, staffing, and strategies to improve.

Dr. Johnson stated that they will present the DIP to this DQIC committee for their suggestion, changes, and additions. In May it will be submitted to the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent.

Dr. Johnson informed the group of the Star Connection Grant that was put out from TEA. She stated that this was a competitive grant that was written collaboratively by Dr. Scott, Dr. Rudd, and Dr. Johnson. The purpose of this grant is to promote systemic change and support our students in addressing bullying, violence, and acts of hate. The grant is around 500,000.00 dollars. This is something the district is extremely proud of.

A pause for questions- there were no questions at this time.

Mrs. Angela Ward then shared that there are several lawsuits across the state of Texas. She wants to make sure that when questions from parents come across about the rating of the district we understand it is a small snapshot of the district and there are a lot more amazing things happening that are not being shown. Mrs. Ward shared that the state changed the line of what was met and failed. She said when comparing the data to last year it would show that our students have grown and learned. Dr. Shields thanked her for the better explanation.

At the high school level, College, Career, and Military Prep (CCMR) is assessed by the number of students who get dual credit, associates, certifications, and so on. Recently, the list of certifications that would be considered a CCMR score was changed. During a meeting, Mrs. Ward shared that out of the 242 students who graduated this past year, 125 students were initially believed to qualify for CCMR points. However, the state later allowed only 20 percent of those students to qualify, which reduced the number to 48 students. Unfortunately, this decision



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was made after the students had already graduated, so nothing could be done to change it. Since the high school is considered 43 or 44 percent of the overall score, Ms. Ward emphasized that this decision had a significant impact on the entire district.

Mrs. Gibson spoke about the well-being of students in general. She mentioned the district's efforts with the truancy team, herself, and Dr. Shields in working with students and parents. When students are absent, they are not learning. Therefore, the district sends letters to parents through Project Truancy, which has proven to be extremely helpful. Some parents may not be aware of the number of absences their child has accumulated, especially at the secondary level. At this point, five students have been taken to court, and nine have begun the paperwork. However, taking a parent to court is the last resort. The district has several other interventions before taking such action.

Strategic Staffing

Originally known as Opportunity Culture, which was a grant that is no longer in effect, now called Strategic Staffing. The state provides funding to the service center for Strategic Staffing, which then allocates district funds to provide stipends to teacher residents. Region 12 was granted funds from the state to observe mentors and their mentees, and Mrs. Strong is currently working on creating a handbook for the district.

We collaborate with multiple universities, including Baylor, Tarleton, Texas Tech, MCC alternative certification, and the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, to foster relationships with their teacher residents. This year, there are teacher residents at every campus. Last year, we offered 11 letters of reassurance and 7 of them accepted that contract.

Mr. Watkins discussed after-school programs within the district. On average, there are around 15-20 students per campus. Baylor is going to partner with us and allow their rowing team to tutor high school students. Dr. Shields requested Mr. Watkins to discuss House Bill 45-45. Mr. Watkins shared that some students utilize this during summer school.

Mrs. Gibson shared that Mr. Thiel worked out a program where meals are provided for after-school tutorials.

Mrs. Gibson then paused for any questions or comments.

Dr. Rudd concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

The next upcoming meeting will be on January 23, 2024, April 30, 2024, and June 6, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.