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**Education Improvement Council (EIC) Meeting Minutes: October 3, 2023**

**Meeting Duration:** 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

South Texas Preparatory Academy: ..... Jesse Palomo, Cillianna Cisneros  
South Texas World Scholars: ..... Dr. Ana Villareal, Thomas Sanchez  
Medical Professions: ..... Elizabeth Arredondo, Rene Lerma  
Health Professions: ..... Diego Leal, Arely Gonzalez  
Rising Scholars Academy: ..... Janie Sanchez, James Galvan  
Science Academy: ..... Cesar Garcia, Dr. Claudia Carranza  
Virtual Academy: ..... Yvette Delgado, Ann Garza  
Professional Rep.: ..... Jacqueline Hinojosa  
Professional Non-Teacher: ..... Cindy Ponce  
District Level Professional: ..... Georgia Blunt  
Parents: ..... Beatriz Salinas (RSA), Claudia Weitzer (HP), Erika Guerrero (MP)  
Community Members: ..... Maria Medina (SA), Esmeralda Fonseca (WS)  
Business Members: ..... Norma Olivares (STPA), Eusebio Guerrero (MP)

**1) Welcome** (approx. 5:00-5:03 PM)

Opening statements by Dr. Nereyda Trevino and Central Office staff

**2) Appointment of EIC Chair** (2 mins)

Dr. Ana Villareal of World Scholars appointed to be EIC Chair by Superintendent Marco Antonio Lara, Jr.

**3) Nomination and Appointment of EIC Secretary** (~5 min)

James Galvan of RSA self-nominates, Elizabeth Arredondo of WS self-nominates. Dr. Trevino holds vote, James Galvan selected as EIC Secretary

**4) 5-Year Strategic Plan (5YSP)**

Dr. Trevino introduced the plan as a means to guide the district from 2023-2028. Deputy Superintendent Efrain Garza added that the plan team members have a chance to voice campus interests in the 5YSP.

Dr. Trevino outlined options for present members to assist: first, remain part of EIC to see proposals before sending them to the School Board; second, join the 5YSP Team to attend extra meetings and help collect data.

International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) presentation begins, led by Director of Professional Learning Pam Palmer.

ICLE wants to have 5YSP Final Draft ready by **November 29, 2023**, then present it at the December 5 Board Meeting for approval. EIC must examine the 5YSP prior to Nov 29 deadline for final changes.

Phase 1: Collective Learning

- Oct 10-13, Instructional Review Process

Not an evaluation, but a series of focus groups comprised of staff and students from around STISD.

- Oct 10, 23 Lead Strategic Plan Meetings

First two meetings meant to build foundation of 5YSP, analyze data, and draft mission, vision, collective values, priorities, and goals

Phase 2: Plan Creation

- Oct 20, Nov 6, Nov 13 dates set for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 5YSP Meetings

Finalize mission, vision, collective values, priorities, and goals

November 29 deadline for submission to Board Secretary, conduct tune-up meeting prior to date.

December 5: Ideally, obtain board approval

Phase 3: Plan Implementation (Post Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> approval)

EIC Members volunteering for 5YSP service:

- Thomas Sanchez (WS), Dr. Claudia Carranza (SA), Esmeralda Fonseca (WS), Megan Berryman (RSA)

Questions regarding 5-Year Strategic Plan:

- 1) Cesar Garcia asked if there were any analyses to tell us success/shortcomings of previous 5YSP. Central Office personnel answered that the previous goals were more qualitative than quantitative and were thus inconclusive. Superintendent Lara added that the new 5YSP should be simplified to understand expectations, emphasize Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely (SMART) goals, and have progress checkpoints.
- 2) Megan Berryman asked how we cover the wide district. Central Office answered that the creating team will draw from the EIC, and then call from around the campuses. They added that all schools will get represented in the data analysis phase, and each campus will get a focus group for the student and faculty populations. Superintendent Lara also added that they hope to balance representatives from all professions, such as bus drivers, custodians, and maintenance personnel.

To close Agenda Item 4, Dr. Trevino notified EIC members that volunteers in the 5YSP Team make bigger individual differences than individuals in focus groups. Deputy Superintendent Garza asked members to join if they are able to, but to please respect the outcomes if they choose not to join.

## **5) Calendar Vote (5:53 PM – 6:06 PM)**

The original survey sent across campuses resulted in a tie, so the EIC will break the tie. Calendar Options A and B are as follows:

- A) Our District of Innovation status allows us to begin school prior to August 26, 2024. The first day of instruction for students will be Wednesday, August 19, 2024 (Staff development days and a work day for teachers will begin on August 12, 2024) The calendar contains the required 75,600 minutes of instruction. Students attend school for 172 days of instruction. Teachers work 187 days, which includes 15 professional development/campus work day. Last day for students: May 28, 2024. Last day for teachers: May 30, 2024.
- B) Our District of Innovation status allows us to begin school prior to August 26, 2024. The first day of instruction for students will be Wednesday, August 19, 2024 (Staff development days and a work day for teachers will begin on August 12, 2024) The calendar contains the required 75,600 minutes of instruction. Students attend school for 172 days of instruction. Teachers work 187 days, which includes 15 professional development/campus work days. Last day for students: May 22, 2024. Last day for teachers: May 29, 2024.

Dr. Trevino and Deputy Superintendent Garza elaborated on the implications of each option's final day for students and staff. Dr. Trevino focused on the availability of venues for high school graduations and the importance of district professional development immediately following the students' final day. Dep. Super. Garza emphasized the importance of structure for students' routines - in regard to the frequency of vacations and volume of school days following state and national exams – and the potential challenges with late ends to the year.

After a vote, Calendar B was chosen with 11 out of 14 votes.

## **6) Course Offerings (6:06 PM – 6:15 PM)**

EIC opted to vote on the district's new course offerings proposal as a whole, as opposed to a campus-by-campus vote.

Upon vote, a majority of EIC members (18 total) approved to present all proposals to the Board.

## **New Business (6:15 PM – 6:30 PM)**

- 1) Approval for Future EIC Meetings
  - a. Majority of EIC Members (21 total) approved the following dates:
    - i. Friday, November 30, 2023 (to approve the 5YSP)
    - ii. Tuesday, January 9, 2024
    - iii. Tuesday, February 13, 2024
- 2) Approval of Minutes from EIC Meeting from March 6, 2023
  - a. Majority of EIC Members (20 total) approved the March 6<sup>th</sup> Minutes with the following updates:

- i. Fixing of typos to member names, general grammar
- 3) Final Additions to 5YSP Team
  - a. Ten EIC Members joined, bringing the final member list to the following:
    - i. Thomas Sanchez (WS), Dr. Claudia Carranza (SA), Esmeralda Fonseca (WS), Megan Berryman (RSA), Diego Leal (HP), Jesse Palomo (STPA), Arely Gonzalez (HP), Janie Sanchez (RSA), Ann Garza (VA), Dr. Ana Villareal (WS), Yvette Delgado (VA), Ivan Saucedo, and Viviana Alvarez

Final Motion to end meeting: Dr. Claudia Carranza firsts, Jesse Palomo seconds

Meeting ended at 6:30 PM