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STISD.NET

Education Improvement Council (EIC) Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2026

Meeting Duration: 5:01PM-5:57 PM

South Texas Preparatory Academy: Saire Moreno, Jada Carrera
South Texas World Scholars Joshua Zamora, Veronica Castro
Medical Professions: Hanani Vasquez, Bruno Sanchez
Health Professions: Ariel Nieto, Paola Salazar
Rising Scholars Academy..... Debbie Delgado, Elvis Reid
Science Academy Lorena Lopez, Esthela Pacheco
Virtual Academy Lirio Arredondo, Monica Perez
Student Representatives.....Andrea Guerrero (SA) Eiza Salinas (HP)
Professional Non-Teacher Amy Pena
District Level Professional Marcos Flores
Parents.....Eddie Lucio, (RSA), Armando Salinas (HP), Angelica Camarillo (MP)
Community Members Isabel Alvarez (SA), Sonia Kerps (WS)
Business Members Nativdad Hinojosa (MP), Christine Molis (STPA)

EIC Meeting Minutes 5:01-5:57PM

1. Welcome

Ariel Nieto called the meeting to order at 5:01PM

2. Review and Vote on EIC Minutes from Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

All EIC Members were directed to the minutes located in the agenda packet to review.

Correction noted: the spelling of Hanani Vasquez

Motion made to approve the EIC meeting minutes with name correction from January 21st, 2026.

- 1st Motion : Bruno Sanchez 2nd Motion : Monica Perez
- Motion passed unanimously

3. Review and possible vote on calendar for 2026–2027 School Calendar

The committee reviewed the two proposed 2026–2027 district calendar options.

Each campus representatives provided comments of what which calendar option they preferred.

- Medical Professions: Calendar 1
- Science Academy: Calendar 1
- World Scholars: Calendar 1
- Virtual Academy: Calendar 1
- Health Professions: Calendar 1
- Parent and Student Representatives: No Comment
- RSA and STPA EIC representatives were not present at meeting.

Motion made to approve calendar 1 for the 2026-2027 school year.

1st Motion: Lorena Lopez

2nd Motion: Christine Molis

- Motion passed unanimously

4. Discussion: Recruitment and Retention

Mr. Garza shared information from meetings held with campus administrators regarding recruitment and retention.

District Enrollment Updates:

- STPA: Filled all available slots within 20 minutes
- RSA: Nearly full
- High demand continues at the middle school level
- All high schools have shown enrollment gains; however, Health Professions has experienced slower growth compared to last year

Key Discussion Points:

- Recruitment and retention responsibilities rest primarily at the campus level
- District does not have a marketing department; campuses provide information to Public Relations
- Campus principals have presented their recruitment and retention plans
- 74 middle school students indicated they will not attend an STISD high school; approximately 80 students remain undecided
- Each campus must establish a clear “selling point”
- Virtual Academy and Science Academy are performing well in retention
- Health Professions needs additional district support for marketing and promotion
- World Scholars faces competition from IB programs in surrounding districts
- Transportation support is being expanded
- District growth rate is approximately 3%, with retention identified as the primary concern rather than recruitment
- Expansion may eventually justify the creation of an additional middle school

Questions & Comments:

- Lorena Lopez: Asked if students are surveyed on why they leave
 - Mr. Garza stated students are being asked, with counselors and high schools now assisting in follow-up
- Christine Molis: Suggested students visit middle schools to promote their campuses from previous enrolled students now at a high school from our district
- Hanani Vasquez: Shared PEIMS data shows many students leave Medical Professions for athletics in BISD
- Bruno Sanchez: Emphasized teachers as the front line of communication and those that interact with students more than any other campus staff.
- Monica Perez: Noted that some Virtual Academy students return after leaving
- Joshua Zamora: Suggested follow-up with students who leave to support re-enrollment

Administrative Updates:

- Mr. Garza recommended all campuses receive access to similar PEIMS data
- Administrators have been asked to take a more active role in recruitment

5. Agenda Items for Discussion at Next EIC Meeting

- Bruno Sanchez: suggested: EIC Members be given district campus data regarding recruitment and retention to help provide additional solutions.
- Efrain Garza: Recommended another EIC Meeting as soon as possible to discuss district-wide topic impacting all campuses

Scheduling Discussion for next EIC meeting:

- Unavailable dates: February 17, 18, 19, and 24
- Proposed dates: February 20 and February 23
- February 23 identified as the most reasonable option

Mr. Garza stated he would reach out of proposed date to ensure high turnout of EIC member participation

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

1st Motion: Joshua Zamora

2nd Motion: Lorena Lopez

Meeting adjourned at: 5:57 PM