



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
February 1, 2007

Attendees: Dora Aschenbeck, Marisa Charles, David Converse, Anne Daily, Virginia Elizondo, Linda Entrekin, Wendi Harris, Penne Irvin, Cathey Jones, Holly McGinnis, Carol Petrich, Jim E. Robin, Catherine Roth, Casey Rowe, Donna Schulz, Donna Villegas, Patricia Weber, Lorena Zertuche, Duncan Klussmann, Sharon Boutwell, Julie Hodson, graduate student

Marissa Charles, DIT chair, welcomed each member.

Dr. Sharon Boutwell, District DIT Facilitator, shared information on the DIT Election/Selection by Lottery process. More information can be found at <http://www.springbranchisd.com/admin/acad/strategic-plan/dit.htm>
Election/Lottery results will be known in March.

80th Texas Legislature

Dr. Duncan Klussmann, Superintendent of Schools, shared the *District's Legislative Brochure*. This document explains the District's Legislative Priorities for the 80th Texas Legislature which meets through May 28, 2007. More information on this session of the 80th Texas Legislature, as well as other government information, can be found at <http://www.springbranchisd.com/admin/gov/gov.htm>
Dr. Diane Jackson, Policy Administration / Governmental Relations, oversees this area.

Waiver

Dr. Klussmann explained the DIT role with respect to district-wide waivers. The DIT reviewed and discussed the Calendar waivers that evolved from Board approval of the 2007 – 2008 School Calendar. In addition, the DIT reviewed and discussed a waiver related to Foreign Exchange Students. Conversation occurred related to the number of foreign exchange students. Dialogue focused on accepting each foreign exchange student as long as any increase in numbers does not have a negative impact.

The DIT accepted these waivers as presented.

2007 – 2008 School Calendar

Dr. Klussmann responded to a question related to the start date for 2007 – 2008. He explained that this calendar has a late August start date in order to meet legislative requirements that were passed during last year's legislative special session. He also shared that during the 80th Texas Legislative Session there may be legislation introduced to start school after Labor Day. A question was raised about the impact such a change would have on students.

Five-Year Educational Plan Process

Duncan reviewed the process for developing the document being reviewed. The process began with the establishment of Board goals (http://www.springbranchisd.com/admin/supt/SB_Goals2.pdf). Next, Task Force Groups worked in the spring of 2006 to develop annual performance objectives for each of the Board Goal Statements. Participants on these Task Force Groups included administrators, teachers, parents and community members. These objectives will enable the district to report its progress. Quarterly Reports will be provided to the School Board.

District staff then took the Board Goals and performance objectives and developed Action Plans. Seventy percent of the objectives will provide numerical data. Some objectives may be reported as action completed/not completed. This is the first time these Action Plans will be linked to the Budget Development Process. These Action Plans will be revised annually.

Next year the DIT will focus on the Action Plans.

Five-Year Educational Plan

The District Improvement Team (DIT) continued its review of the Five -Year Educational Plan begun in January. DIT members broke into their groups (Group 1: SPA; Group 2: SPB, SPC and SPD; Group 3: S and P; and Group 4: C & O) and reviewed their previous work with a focus on any clarifications needed or missing information.

A Five-Year Educational Plan is a way to see where you want the district to be in five years. It is developed in the present with current understandings; and yet, its focus is on where you want to be. Action Plans guide the work for achieving the goals/vision and are developed year-to-year.

Group Share – Selected comments/questions from Group 1: SPA

(Complete details on reviewed document/ [comment from Superintendent])

SPA1.1 --Define meaning of *project-based learning*. Will it be uniform/across grade levels? What will be the teacher training?

SPA2: Is it PK – 12? [If it is not designated, it means PK – 12.]

Will this be implemented uniformly across the district at all schools? [Goal is for consistency with similar technology access at each site.]

SPA 5.3: Questions arose about the meaning of “individualized plans (IP) for students.” [The Action Plan will explain the activities on how this will be addressed. The IP is a planning tool for course selection so more purposeful choices will be made when selecting courses. The tool will help a student know what courses he/she should be taking to achieve his/her goals.]

A suggestion was made to more clearly define the meaning of the Five-Year Educational Plan and the Action Plans. That is, what is the difference between the two?

SPA 6.1: A question was asked on support levels and training for general education teachers. Mention was made of differentiated instruction. [Action plans will have the activities related to the intent of this goal/these objectives.]

SPA 8: An objective is missing--- Services for Gifted and Talented elementary student on home campus/Opportunity for challenge for students on home campus.

Definition for “differentiated” is needed. [Do you have one curriculum or multiple curricula? How curriculum is defined will guide the meaning of concepts such as “differentiated.”]

At the next DIT meeting, work will continue on the Five-Year Educational Plan.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2007