



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
May 3, 2007
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Administration Building Board Room

In attendance: Dora Aschenbeck, Marisa Charles, David Converse, Anne Daily, Ellen Davis, Suzanne Doler, Virginia Elizondo, Linda Entrekin, Sara Estrada Zaragosa, Wendi Harris, Xavier Herrera, Cathey Jones, Sherry Keys, Duncan Klussmann, Amy McElhaney, Holly McGinnis, Bonnie McSpadden, Sharon Muncey, Carol Petrich, Jim E. Robin, Catherine Roth, Donna Schulz, Julie Turrentine, Patricia Weber, Lorena Zertuche, Sharon Boutwell; District Staff: Julie Hodson, Director of Grants

Dr. Duncan Klussmann, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed the new members to the District Improvement Team (DIT): Teacher representatives, Bonnie McSpadden and Sherry Keys; parent representative, Julie Turrentine.

Dr. Klussmann also presented Certificates of Appreciation to exiting DIT teacher members, Catherine Roth and Penne Irvin, and parent member Ellen Davis for their service to the district as DIT members.

Bond Committee

Virginia Elizondo, one of the DIT representatives on the Bond Committee, reported the work is becoming more focused on the intent of the bond election. Initially the group learned about various district actions, including the work of the Facilities Study group. This historical review brought everyone on the Bond Committee up-to-date and provided a common understanding. Now, the committee is working to develop consensus on what systemic items might be included if there is a Bond Election. What are the recommendations for supporting district growth, for addressing needed renovations for curriculum requirements such as science, and/or for transforming aging campus facilities?

The 60 - 65 bond committee members represent the feeder pattern for each high school. Community members serve as co-chairs and represent both the north and south sides of the district. This committee plans to take recommendations to the SBISD June Board Workshop. The School Board will decide in August or September whether to hold a bond election in November.

The Texas Educator Excellence Grant (TEEG) Opportunity, Cycles I and II

Julie Hodson, Director of Grants, reviewed the information presented in Fall, 2006 with respect to the TEEG grants. These grants are offered to the district based on state guidelines, including the identification of the schools. For Cycle II, there are 9 schools. While some are on the list for a second time, not all schools in Cycle I are included in Cycle II. (In Cycle I, there were 12 identified schools; 1 of the 12 elected not to participate.) Julie shared that usually when a grant is announced there is a window of 6 weeks and then the grant proposal is due back.

She reminded the DIT members that in Fall, 2006 they had reviewed Cycle I proposals and provided input on the structures/approaches that each campus planned for distribution of the available grant funds. The Grants Department helped with constructing a common template for elementary and middle school campuses. (No high school campuses qualified.)

Superintendent Klussmann clarified that each campus identified through state criteria met to 1) determine if there would be participation in this grant opportunity and (2) develop guidelines for fund distribution if the campus participated. He also explained how Cycle I worked: (1) 2005 – 2006 data was used to identify the schools; (2) Fall, 2006, identified SBISD schools learned they were in Cycle I and created their plans; (3) in 2007 – 2008, grant funds for Cycle I will be awarded.

Julie reminded DIT members she would be coming back to them for their input on Cycle II grants. She also shared that DIT members would see the grants again if a campus wanted to modify its current plan. For example, one campus wants to modify its plan to include the Support Instructional Specialists (SIS) who had not been included previously. Penne Irvin, DIT teacher representative from Group 3, made a motion to accept the proposed change and Anne Daily, teacher representative from Group 3, seconded it. No discussion occurred and all DIT members in attendance approved the motion.

A motion was made by Dr. Lorena Zertuche, teacher representative from Group 3, and seconded by Anne Daily to electronically review the Cycle II grants. In discussion, a recommendation was made that DIT facilitator, Dr. Sharon Boutwell, email members for summer addresses if different from those currently used. In addition, feedback will be sent to Sharon for collating and sharing with DIT. All DIT members in attendance approved the motion and the recommended actions for Sharon.

A question was raised about other campuses being eligible in addition to these identified by the state. Dr. Klussmann shared that many districts favor incentive funds coming directly to the district so that the district could develop within a collaborative framework both the criteria and disbursement plans. This collaboration would enable more participation. Currently, the state model is not from a collaborative model. SBISD is looking for a more balanced, inclusive incentive model and is talking to legislative representatives.

Observations/Questions

DIT representatives observed that the newly adopted math books will come with software. At this time, however, many teacher computers cannot access the software.

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The Superintendent explained that this situation is being addressed. Pending availability of district funds, SBISD would like to accept bid proposals for upgrading teacher computers. The Superintendent noted that teacher computers needed media capabilities. He shared that through some of the Title I funds a few teachers will have active platforms next year—white boards and projectors.

SBISD remains a Robin Hood district after last year's special session by the legislature. There will be no changes in this status in the current legislative session. Presently, of the Robin Hood school district, SBISD is #2 in percentage of low socio-economic status (SES) students (55%) and #1 in percentage of limited - English proficient (LEP) students (29%).

A question arose about the change in the district's approach to Bilingual programming. This change in the Bilingual program approach is the result of the work of the Bilingual Task Force. District data showed significant numbers of SBISD students, who have been in SBISD since PK/K, not transitioning into English by the end of fifth grade. This fact has impacted their success in middle school.

The Bilingual Task Force was created to study district data and successful programs outside of the district. Prior to the arrival of Vivian Pratts, the new Director of Bilingual and ESL, Dr. Jennifer Blaine, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, invited all administrators, principals, and assistant principals to be a part of the work of the Task Force. The Director of Bilingual/ESL, Vivian Pratts asked all principals or assistant principals serving on the Task Force to select teacher representatives from their respective campuses to participate. The Task Force also included all members of the Bilingual/ESL Department and Directors of TAKS tested areas. (See attachment.)

As a result of their work, the Bilingual Task Force recommended to the SBISD School Board, the One –Way Dual Language program (See also DIT minutes, March 1, 2007). The current district model focuses on percentage of instructional time in Spanish/ percentage of instructional time in English. One-way dual language will focus on specific subjects to be taught in English.

Five - Year Educational Plan

Dr. Klussmann explained that the DIT feedback from previous work will be given to Senior Staff and the consultant who is assisting the district in both developing and monitoring the plan.

Dr. Klussmann further explained that in 2007 – 2008, he will bring to the DIT members various components to review as part of the District Improvement Plan (DIP). He reminded the team that previously the DIP has been for a period of 18 months. Now, with the Five - Year Educational Plan in place, as well as Action Plans, the DIP can be on a yearly cycle. In fact, a quarterly review cycle has been established in order to monitor the implementation of the Five - Year Educational Plan.

DIT meetings next year may occur monthly as they have this year. It is also possible some monthly meetings will be replaced by Task Force meetings. When the team meets, DIT representatives will report on the work of the Task Force upon which they serve.

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How often the DIT might meet next year will be discussed in the first meeting in September. Meanwhile Dr. Boutwell will send the 2007 – 2008 monthly meeting dates and times. The DIT will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Board Room.

Statute and The District Improvement Team (DIT)

Dr. Klussmann reviewed with DIT members portions of the Texas Education Code (TEC) that address district-level site-based decision making. The Texas Education Code (TEC §11.251) defines the role of the DIT. Dr. Klussmann shared that SBISD offered input to the state when this law was under development in the early 1990's. During this time under the leadership of then

General Superintendent Dr. Hal Guthrie, the district had in place a Campus Leadership Team model that targeted the Effective Schools components.

Under state law, the planning and decision-making processes are presented as an integrated process (TEC §11.251). Planning is one of six specific decision-making areas in which the district and committee are involved in accordance with SBISD procedures. The other five areas include budgeting, curriculum, staffing patterns, staff development, and school organization.

SBISD Legal Board Policy BQA Legal shares more information

[http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/101920/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=BQA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/101920/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=BQA(LEGAL).pdf)

Dr. Klussmann reported that next year when the DIT and School Board hold their joint public meeting on the AEIS Report there will be a format change. This change will permit more interaction between the Board members and the DIT members.

Monthly Meeting Dates (Thursdays) –to be reviewed at September 6, 2007 meeting

9/6/07	1/10/08 (2 nd Thursday)	4/3/08
10/4/07	2/7/08	5/1/08
11/1/07	3/6/08	6/5/08 (if needed)
12/6/07		

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. by DIT Chair, Marisa Charles.