



**District Improvement Team (DIT)  
Meeting  
November 6, 2008  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

In attendance: *Ricardo Barnes, Jennifer Barrett, Elena Bowes, J. Carter Breed, Margie Duffey, Virginia Elizondo, Linda Entrekin, Mike Falick, Vivecca Hartman, Cathey Jones, Dr. Duncan Klussmann, Marie-Louise (Mimi) Lawrence, Bonnie McSpadden, Jessica Nella, Jimmie O'Quinn, Patti Pace, Mary Peterson, Carol Petrich, Larry Pugh, Oswaldo Rios, Diane Roberts, Casey Rowe, Carlton Sands, and guest, Dr. Eloise Hambright-Brown.* 62% of DIT members were in attendance.

Dr. Duncan Klussmann, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed everyone.

Duncan reviewed the meeting agenda.

**Task Force Reports**

Linda Entrekin, Mary Foster, Jacques Kusters, Jimmie O'Quinn, Patti Pace, Diane Roberts and Carol Strickland served on the Calendar Committee. The committee had two calendar proposals for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. One proposal had first semester exams before the winter break and the other one had exams after the winter break. There was an online survey for employees, parents and students. The calendars with the exams before winter break were favored by all groups. SBISD will submit a waiver to TEA for 178 instructional days instead of 180 days. The two days will be used for professional development.

**Task Forces**

The district has several Task Forces and the DIT members were asked to consider volunteering for one of the following committees.

- Alternative Learning
- Student Success Plan
- Discipline Management
- Homework

**Questions**

Jimmie O'Quinn shared a concern regarding elementary children of secondary school teachers trying to get student transfers.

*Duncan explained that student transfers are based on projected enrollment and grade level capacity at each campus. Policy guarantees a slot for employee's children at a campus where the employee works. Preference for student transfers is given to employees. Student transfer information is on the website*

*<http://www.springbranchisd.com/admin/administration/admin-index.htm> and shows campuses with openings.*

Diane Roberts asked about the bond funds update.

*Hollibrook Elementary will have ground breaking on November 18, 2008 and Westwood Elementary in December. Bond fund updates are posted frequently on the SBISD website.*

### **Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant**

SBISD receives funds for eligible pre-kindergarten students. To qualify for eligibility, students must qualify for the free-reduced lunch program and/or speak limited or no English. The SBISD highly successful, full day program is paid for with District funds and about \$3 million a year is paid from the Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant. SBISD has some tuition paid students in the pre-kindergarten program.

The Expansion Grant is in jeopardy for SBISD and high performing school districts. A proposed three-tiered system would give more of the Expansion Grant funds to low performing districts rather than those like SBISD with established track records of success. The proposed rules would require districts, including SBISD, to following pre-kindergarten guidelines that are not as well developed as SBISD's rich pre-kindergarten curriculum.

Information regarding the Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant is posted on the SBISD website <http://www.springbranchisd.com/>. You can send letters to the State Senators, State Representatives and TEA to protect the Pre-K program.

### **Legislative Update**

Mike Falick shared the SBISD Legislative Priorities and Positions which were adopted by the Board of Trustees on July 28, 2008 and are posted on the SBISD website <http://www.springbranchisd.com/admin/gov/gov.htm>. The SBISD Priorities include Finance and Accountability.

An "awareness campaign" is needed to let the community know about the state financial issues.

SBISD and other districts are recommending revamping the elementary testing program and doing away with TAKS and use a diagnostic test instead. High school testing is moving away from TAKS to end-of-course exams.

A bill was passed during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session regarding uniformity of Grade Point Average (GPA) and left the implementation/decisions to Higher Education. The proposal is do away with points for Pre-AP and AP. SBISD Board passed a resolution to keep the weights. The proposal is tabled until January.

### **Textbook Waiver for Photography II Course**

Cathy Bottoms, photography teacher at Memorial High School, presented the *Textbook Waiver for Photography II Course*. Photography II classes currently do not have any textbooks. The state allows a waiver request for district reimbursement of \$49.16 per book.

Jimmie O'Quinn, DIT Co-chair asked for comments from the DIT members.

The DIT members unanimously, accepted the waiver as presented and it was signed by the Co-chairs, Linda Entrekin and Jimmie O'Quinn. The waiver will be presented to the Board of Trustees on November 24, 2008 for approval.

### **Title I Funds for High Schools**

Dr. Eloise Hambright-Brown, Director of Federal and External Funds shared information about the Title I funds for high schools. Eligibility for the funds is determined by the number of students on the free-reduced lunch program. The high schools that qualify for this funding are Northbrook High, Spring Woods High and Westchester Academy for International Studies. A decision was made to use supplemental funding from the State Compensatory Education Funds instead of Title I funds, which is the same amount of money. High School of Choice is a Title I school because it is an Alternative Campus.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, January 8, 2009 (5:30 – 7:30 p.m.)  
Administration Building, Board Room

Note: If DIT members have suggestions for agenda items, please notify Linda Entrekin, Jimmie O'Quinn and Carlton Sands.