



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting May 8, 2008

In attendance: Dora Aschenbeck, Jennifer Barrett, Elena Bowes, Anne Daily, Virginia Elizondo, Linda Entrekin, Xavier Herrera, Cathey Jones, Susan Kellner, Bruce Koons, Jacques Kusters, Mary Grace Landrum, Marie-Louise (Mimi) Lawrence, Holly McGinnis, Sharon Muncey, Jimmie O'Quinn, Carol Petrich, Oswaldo Rios, Carol Strickland, Julie Turrentine, Liz Weaver, Patricia Weber, Duncan Klussmann, Patti Pace, Carlton Sands, and guests, Margie Duffey, Merrie Thomas and Julie Hodson.

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

Virginia Elizondo, DIT Chair, welcomed the new DIT members and guests and reviewed the agenda.

Welcome New DIT Members

Virginia introduced the new DIT members and each person shared something about themselves.

Teacher Appraisal System

Patti Pace and Merrie Thomas gave an update on the Teacher Appraisal System. The Teacher Appraisal System committee consisted of elementary and secondary teachers, principals and administrators. The teacher appraisal is part of The Five-Year Educational Plan. Some of the aspects of the committee included: reviewing current system, presentation of overview, reviewing other district's system (most use the PDAS), and reviewing state mandates.

They shared the "Professional Development and Appraisal System" and the "Teacher Appraisal Comprehensive Overview of Tiers". Some of the highlights of the presentation include:

- Board of Trustees has to approve the Teacher Appraisal Process.
- Once the Appraisal System has been approved, information will be shared with stakeholders.
- The system consists of 4 Tiers: Induction Tier, Tier III, Tier II, and Tier I.
- Schedules for training Administrators and Teachers will be developed once the system has been approved. Training will take place June, 2008 through August 2009.
- All administrators will have eight days of training. 5 days for Instructional Leadership Development and 3 days for SBISD Professional Development Appraisal System (PDAS)
- The implementation will be for 2009-2010 school year.
- Discussion was had regarding whether or not observations would be announced or not, PDAS guidelines leave it up to the District to make this decision. Currently some principals schedule observations and walk-throughs.
- Administrators can always do more walk-throughs.
- Some departments such as health fitness, music and technology have been developing walk through forms specific to the content.
- The teacher Appraisal Task Force did an amazing job as they worked through the process.

Recognition of Outgoing DIT Members

Virginia Elizondo recognized and thanked all of the out-going DIT members for their two years of work on the DIT. Each person received a certificate and small token of appreciation.

Texas Educator Excellence Grant (TEEG)

Julie Hodson shared that the DIT will need to vote on the grant. Each 2007-08 DIT member will receive an email to approve or disapprove the proposals for the grant.

2008-09 Student Code of Conduct

Margie Duffey presented a draft of the 2008-09 Student Code of Conduct. There are no major revisions this year. Last year, there were major revisions in the Code of Conduct, due to the changes by the Legislature. The DIT approved the recommended revisions for 2008-09. The annual adoption of the Code of Conduct by the Board of Trustees will be May 19, 2008.

Federal Funded Programs

Dr. Eloise Hambright-Brown gave an overview of the Federal Funded Programs. She shared the purpose and intent of the funding and explained how the funds can and cannot be used.

She also shared how each eGrant can be used.

Title I – Basic improvement for supplemental support of instruction

Title II, Part A – Training for teachers, principals and recruitment

Title II, Part D – To enhance and supplement instructional technology

Title III, Part A, LEP – English Language Learners supplemental support in professional development and instructional support

Title IV, Part A – Safe & Drug Free Schools to support the decrease in tobacco and drug use

Updates from Duncan

Duncan shared that there is a big concern regarding school finances in the State of Texas. He and other superintendents are working with the state legislators to hopefully make some changes during the 81st Legislative Session, which begins in January 2009.

Another concern for the school districts is the accountability system. Districts are not seeing the right student expectations.

He gave a brief update on the Bond Projects. Westwood and Hollibrook Elementary schools will have new buildings. The goal is to start these projects by the end of the year. Cedar Brook, Buffalo Creek, Sherwood and Nottingham will be renovated.

Technology update

The “laptop rollout” for all teachers is near completion and went very well. The teachers on DIT said everything went very smooth and are excited to have district laptops available for use at home, to work on grades, lessons, etc.

Plans are to have wireless connections across the district this summer.

Meeting Schedule for 2008-09

DIT members will be notified by email about the first meeting date for 2008-09.

The schedule for the DIT meetings will be set during the first meeting.