



**District Improvement Team (DIT)
Meeting
September 4, 2008
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

In attendance: *Ricardo Barnes, Jennifer Barrett, Elena Bowes, J. Carter Breed, Linda Entrekin, Sara Estrada, Mike Falick, Mary Foster, Vivecca Hartman, Cathey Jones, Mary Kemick, Kay Kennard, Duncan Klussmann, Jacques Kusters, Mary Grace Landrum, Marie-Louise (Mimi) Lawrence, Jessica Nella, Jimmie O'Quinn, Patti Pace, Mary Peterson, Larry Pugh, Oswaldo Rios, Diane Roberts, Carol Strickland, Liz Weaver, Carlton Sands, and guest, Lea Ann Lockard.*

Dr. Duncan Klussmann, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed everyone. Each person shared something about themselves as part of the introductions.

Duncan reviewed the meeting agenda.

DIT Chair Selection for 2008-09

Duncan gave a brief description of the responsibilities of the DIT Chair – assist in the development and preparation of the agenda, facilitate the meetings, and sign documents, as needed, as representation of the DIT.

Duncan asked for nominations for the DIT Chair position.

Cathey Jones nominated **Linda Entrekin** who has 40 years teaching experience and has previously served on the DIT and CIT.

Sara Estrada nominated **Jimmie O'Quinn** who has 21 years teaching experience and has previously served on the DIT and CIT.

The DIT members voted on the above mentioned nominees. Each nominee received seven votes. With a tie vote, the DIT voted to have Linda and Jimmie Co-chair the DIT for 2008-09.

DIT Roles and Responsibilities

Duncan reviewed the DIT Roles and Responsibilities. Policies BQA (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) were shared and discussed. The Legal policies are the interpretation of the State Statutes. The Local policy defines roles, responsibilities and process by SBISD and was revised and adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 19, 2008.

TEC §11.252 defines what has to be in the District Improvement Plan (DIP), requires a joint meeting of the DIT and Board after the District receives the AEIS report and establishes work of the committee. The DIT is also consulted on proposals of district-wide staff development and waivers.

Before the proposed calendar goes to the Board for adoption, it is presented to the DIT for feedback.

Questions:

Elena Bowes asked about the student members mentioned in BQA (LOCAL).

The DIT is in a transition period with the new model was adopted by the Board in May. This new model will be in effect in March 2009. The composition for the students will be examined and determined prior to February 2009.

Duncan meets with a student group several times a year then they meet with all of the Administrators.

Five-Year Educational Plan

Duncan shared information about the Five-year Educational Plan. About 2 ½ years ago, staff, students, and parents started working on a strategic plan and the goals for the Five-year Plan. The committee considered where the District wants to go. The Five-year Educational Plan has eight goals which will not change for five years. Each goal has Objectives to measure success. The Directors are responsible for the Action Plans to meet the goals.

The proposed revisions to the Five-year Education Plan will be presented to the Board on September 22, 2008.

The Administrative staff has started writing Actions Plans for 2009-2010. The Board will review the Action Plans in February 2009.

Key District Data

Duncan reviewed the Key District Data from the past five years.

- The scores for Mathematics increased and the gap narrowed.
- The scores for Language Arts increased and the gap narrowed.
- The scores for Writing decreased and the gap widened. The District is looking at this closely and working with students to increase the scores and narrow the gap for 2009.
- The scores for Science were about the same as 2007.

Mary Foster suggested the state do away with TAKS and concentrate on ACT and SAT. Approximately how much is spent on preparation for the TAKS?

\$500,000 per year

Districts are working with State Legislators to try to change the accountability system statewide, recommending using norm referenced tests. A group is proposing that 10 districts pilot a program to waive the TAKS tests and use norm-referenced tests.

Who does the community need to contact to pass/change the law?

State legislators

Jimmie O'Quinn asked whose voices carry more influence with the legislators?

Parents and businesses

The ACT and SAT are standardized tests. The DIT reviewed the graphs showing student participation and scores from 2004 – 2008. The participation in ACT for the District increased from 431 in 2004 to 768 in 2008. The average scores increased in English and Math. The participation in SAT increased from 1275 in 2004 to 1375 in 2007 and decreased to 1270 in 2008. Since 2004, the participation in both tests has doubled at Northbrook High School.

SBISD pays for all sophomores to take the Program for Educational Planning (PLAN) in October.

Alternative Education Program (AEP) Attendance Waiver

Lea Ann Lockard, Director of High School of Choice, presented the AEP Waiver. This waiver allows the school to institute procedures for students clocking time daily in order for the school to claim ADA for student attendance. It allows the school to claim full ADA for students attending night school (four hours a night) and greater flexibility in working with students that may have other needs that prevent them from being available for attendance during a traditional school day.

The DIT accepted the waiver as presented and was signed by the Co-chairs, Linda Entrekin and Jimmie O'Quinn. The waiver will be presented to the Board of Trustees on September 22, 2008 for approval.

2008-09 Task Force Involvement

Duncan shared a list of Task Forces for 2008-09 and asked the DIT members to volunteer to be on a Task Force. The members will report the committee's work to the DIT and take any suggestions back to the committee.

Suggestion from DIT members – Meeting schedules need to be shared when asking for volunteers to serve on committee.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2008 (5:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

Administration Building, Board Room

An agenda item: *Legislative Update*

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