



**District Improvement Team  
(DIT) Meeting  
November 5, 2009  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

In attendance: *Kathy Abshire, Allison Birney, Linda Buchman, Holly Durham, Ruben Espinoza, Mike Falick, Alfonso Fernandez del Valle, Melissa Knop, Scott LeMaire, Nicole Rae Morgan, Patty Nilsson, Kristin Pavlik, Mary Peterson, Larry Pugh, Oswaldo Rios, Erica Rodriguez, Susan Sabeth, Janet Smith, Lance Stallworth, Carol Strickland, Katie Teeters.* There were 58% of DIT members in attendance at this meeting.

Kristin Pavlik started the meeting with an introduction of visitors and new members. One visitor, Melissa Knop, was in attendance.

Dr. Klussmann reviewed the meeting agenda to start the meeting.

**Task Force Reports**

Duncan began by asking if any DIT members had attended any district Task Force meetings. Oswaldo Rios from Cedar Brook Elementary attended the Student Success Plan Task Force. Mr. Rios explained that the goal of the success plan will be the introduction of how to track student files from pre-k through high school. The web-based system will make it so much easier to track student's school experience by clicking on a student's name to review their academic file as opposed to digging through paper files. Right now there are only files for last year and this year but, it is building.

Mr. Rios also attended the Performance-Based Pay Task Force. Carol Strickland from Spring Oaks Middle School stated that they meet every Thursday. At the last meeting, representatives from both Spring ISD and HISD spoke about their performance-based pay plans.

Dr. Klussmann talked about the DATE Grant and mentioned we didn't participate in it last year. It is a \$1.5 million grant per year for two years. If we apply for this grant this year, the DIT will be part of the process. This grant is a teacher incentive program and funds would represent a 1% pay raise. He further noted that any grant funds we could obtain would help with the budget deficit. Dr. Klussmann would like to be able to give incentives not only to teachers but also to other staff, such as custodians and cafeteria workers.

**Flexible Courses for High School students**

Lance Stallworth, Principal of Spring Woods High School, discussed guidelines and showed the pamphlets prepared by the Program of Studies Committee. Guidelines have changed as a result of legislative action that has enabled high school students to have more flexibility in their schedules. As a result, the committee has examined career clusters. There are 16 clusters nationally. The committee has identified several clusters

for which SBISD currently has sufficient quantity of courses to build around. Two include Health and Science, for which the Guthrie Center already has programs in place providing internships at hospitals, engineering, math, and robotics. In the Arts and Visual media cluster, existing courses include multimedia, web design, and TV broadcasting. There are also courses in The Humanities, Government, Law enforcement, and ROTC. An additional cluster has been identified for Business and Finance courses. Lance stated that beginning in January, parents and students will see full pages with descriptions of clusters along with a listing of jobs that pertain to the courses, and a planning grid for students to build out a 4 year plan. This structure will help students get credits that are built around their interests. In addition the district is looking for new clusters to build around. The information gathered will be presented this Monday to the Board of Trustees for approval.

### **Graduation Requirements**

There has been an inquiry about giving bonus points up to 20% for students who struggle by having them take the SAT or and ACT prep course. The district is waiting on an answer from the state.

### **Class Size Waiver**

Cheri Brajenovich, Director of Elementary Recruitment & Staff Placement, talked about the Class size waiver. Right now we have two schools that are over the elementary 22:1 ratio. Thornwood is one student over in one class and Westwood has two classes over in ratio. (One is one student over the other 2 students over.) Thornwood's staffing adjustment will take place in the 2010-2011 school year. Westwood is being rebuilt. Dr. Klusmann mentioned that it is too disruptive to move students and teachers around this far in the year, and this was a main reason to seek the waiver. Students and teachers are already comfortable with each other at this point. Cheri asked for approval from the DIT to seek Board approval of the waiver.

Question:

Kristin: What if we went more than one over, what would happen than?

Duncan: If it went 4-5 kids over, then at that time we would request the addition of another teacher.

Susan: Is a waiver good for this class and this kid only?

Duncan: It is for the schools that exceed the 22:1 ratio.

Cheri: The amended waiver can be adjusted at anytime.

Kathy: Is shifting teachers an option?

Duncan: It is an option but, again, this becomes disruptive when we are just 1-2 kids over. If it were 4-5 kids then we would add a teacher.

Susan: Has this class always been over or did this just happen?

Cheri: It was something that just popped up. The class was not always over.

Janet: The 22 to 1 ratio applies to what grade?

Duncan: From K-4<sup>th</sup>, not pre-k, and not 5<sup>th</sup> and up. If all our 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are at 27 students we would consider bringing in a sub to help, but it is not a requirement of the State.

Susan: Have the teachers that are over in ratio been asked how they feel about the class size?

Duncan: It has already been part of the discussion.

Cheri: Teachers and students have already bonded with each other and don't want to move this late in the year. That is why we are asking for the waiver. Twenty-three students is not the issue it is when we are at 24-25.

Duncan explained how to complete the waiver. Kristin will facilitate it.

Holly: Is it time to put a cap?

Duncan: This is not a decision we can make. We can make a statement in this waiver but we are not bound to it.

Kristin: Are we new to this waiver?

Duncan: This is our first one in 14 years. We can get updates on the classes.

***Action Taken:***

The DIT voted to approve this waiver.

**Application for Expedited and General State Waivers**

Becky Wuerth, Coordinator Staff Development, explained the request to obtain the DIT's approval to seek Board approval of SBISD's submission of the TEA Application for Expedited and General State Waivers.

There are many parts to the waiver which Becky Wuerth reviewed with the DIT.

**Calendar:** Although the SBISD board has approved the academic calendar for the 2010-2011 school year, several pieces of the waiver must be requested from TEA for each school year. As it has for many years, the District is again asking for a waiver to have 178 days student days and 2 days for staff development. The two waived days of staff development must occur during the school year.

SBISD is also seeking the Early Release Waivers for the following:

- Two days in October 2010 (elementary only for conferences),
- Three days for secondary finals before winter break and before the end of the school year, and early release on the last day of school for all grades.

Under Section 5 of the Application, SBISD is also requesting:

- Late Arrival on Oct. 13, 2010 for 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to accommodate PSAT testing of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Six late arrival days for MHS during 2010-2011 school year for teacher staff development and teaming time.

Lance Stallworth: Can we [other high schools] broaden staff development time as MHS is doing?

Duncan: It has to be approved at the campus level and has to go through the Campus Improvement Team.

**Textbook Waiver:**

The Textbook Waiver portion of the application is for reimbursement for books for courses for which no textbook was offered for consideration nor adopted by the state.

Question:

Lance Stallworth: The Textbook Waiver is one I was not aware of. Can you please get me more information?

Becky: There is a website. The books that are not on the list have to go through the Textbook Committee. Becky will send something out to principals to make sure they are aware of the reimbursement for text books.

**Foreign Exchange Student Waiver:**

SBISD is again requesting a limit of no more than five foreign exchange students per high school to preserve District resources for domestic students.

**Pregnancy Related Services General Waiver:**

Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI) provides academic services to the student. With the On-Campus Waiver, a special classroom will be provided on the SBEC campus where a certified teacher will administer the required four hours of weekly instruction. This portion of the TEA Waiver application has been already approved through 2012, so on the current application the waiver is being requested for the 2012-2013 school year.

**Action Taken:**

The DIT voted to approve the SBISD application for the TEA Application for Expedited and General State Waivers. The document will now go to the board for approval before being submitted to TEA.

**Virtual Learning**

Duncan talked about virtual learning and how it will be taking place next year. It will be high school only first.

Question:

Ruben: Can AP classes be taken at the virtual school?

Duncan: Not now, but maybe in the future.

**Five Year Plan Update**

Dr. Klusmann reviewed the status of the Five Year Plan. This year there are eight goals and 43 objectives. The district is in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the previous 5 year plan and 6 months from starting development of the next plan. There will be an 18 month time line for the next 5 year plan. At the January meeting Duncan said he will bring the proposed timeline of implementation for the next Five Year Plan development process.

**House Bill 46 and Update**

Dr. Eloise Hambright Brown, Director External Funds & Compliance, discussed House Bill 46. Changes in state funding require that we submit an application stating how we would use our stabilization funds. Pre-k Funding was cut, so Stabilization Funding will be used to support Pre-kindergarten programming this year.

Title 1 campuses are eligible to use Stabilization Funds. SBISD received an allocation of \$6 million for 2 year time period.

IDEA funding for Special Education also has been allocated to SBISD. It will be used for staff development.

School of Choice received \$50,000 for school improvement and is seeking a candidate to serve as a success coach. The school will also receive \$50,000 in stimulus funding.

1. Vision 20/20: \$500,000 will be used for the secondary Virtual schools program.
2. T-3 funds will be used for laptops for middle school.
3. \$190,000 will be allocated for software and hardware at middle school and a project facilitator.

The Stabilization funding we received for Pre-K helped us to save 79 jobs. It costs \$13 million to fully fund our Pre-k program. We are hoping that we will be eligible for Race to the Top funding as Pre-k is a qualifying program.

Kathy: Who are the laptops for?

Duncan: All our middle schools.

Kathy: For every student?

Duncan: No. There will be 5-7 in certain classrooms. The idea so far is to use them in centers.

### **Legislative Report- Mike Falick, Trustee**

Currently in the works is the formation of a school finance committee. Finance is the top priority. At this point, the goal is to have stable funding. Mike noted that our legislative delegation team has done an outstanding job and has been very helpful.

Dr. Klussmann explained where SBISD taxpayers' money goes. He said if the state would just let us retain the taxes taken in for property value growth, they would cover inflation.

Janet: Is there a way we can get this information out to all the tax payers to see where the money really is going?

Duncan: We will try to do that. We are thinking a letter will be more effective than the media or paper because that only gets to so many people.

Scott: Is the PTA working on something to get this information known to the public?

Answer: Yes, it is being worked on. It will be talked about at the meeting in the Spring.

In conclusion, Dr. Klussmann thanked students and all DIT members for coming. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>.