



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

**Minutes**

In attendance: *Ricardo Barnes, J. Carter Breed, Margie Duffey, Linda Entrekina, Sara Estrada, Cathey Jones, Kay Kennard, Dr. Duncan Klussmann, Marie-Louise (Mimi) Lawrence, Jessica Nella, Jimmie O'Quinn, Mary Peterson, Carol Petrich, Larry Pugh, Oswaldo Rios, Diane Roberts, Carol Strickland, Carlton Sands, and guests, Linda Buchman and Karen Wilson.* 47% of DIT members were in attendance.

Jimmie O'Quinn welcomed everyone.

**Low Attendance Waiver**

Karen Wilson, Associate Superintendent for Finance, presented the *Application for Low Attendance Days* waiver. This waiver allows the district or campus to request that any instructional days with attendance at least 10% below the last school year's average attendance due to weather, health or safety issues be excluded from ADA calculations for the current school year. The attendance for one week before Hurricane Ike and one week after was compared to the attendance during the same time period in 2007. Five campuses qualified for an adjustment (School of Choice, Bear Blvd., Housman, Spring Branch Elementary and Woodview). The DIT accepted the waiver as presented.

**Task Force Reports**

- Oswaldo Rios gave a report on the Student Success Plan Task Force. The Student Success Plan will follow each student from when they are enrolled in SBISD through graduation. A template is being developed for each student and the goal is for every student to be successful after high school.
- Mimi Lawrence and Mary Peterson gave an update on the Alternative Learning Task Force. Frank Kelly presented to the Task Force, his philosophy on broad terms about education. Mimi suggested that Frank Kelly speak to the DIT.

The task force talked about schools needing to move into the current age. Drop-out recovery will let students have the opportunity to take courses through digital learning. How do you prepare students for digital learning? The task force looked at different systems which will address all students in elementary, middle and high school. They are close to making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees

- Carol Petrich gave a report on the Teacher Appraisal Task Force. The task force is completing the work with some changes to the appraisal system. The information is in the *New Horizons* and teachers should read it. Appraisals for all staff are being revised or developed and will be customized to the various roles/responsibilities.

**Legislative Update**

Dr. Duncan Klussmann shared information about what is happening in the Texas 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session. He attended a press conference on March 5 with Senator Florence

Shapiro and Representative Rob Eissler, chairs of the Select Committee on Public Accountability over the last interim. Senate Bill 3 (SB3) and House Bill 3 (B3) are about accountability, curriculum and promotion requirements in public education. To track the bills filed, go to the following website <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> and enter the bill number. Dr. Klussmann is working with Senator Shapiro and Representative Eissler to make recommended amendments to SB 3 & HB 3.

Summaries of the bills that could affect education are posted on the SBISD Governmental Relations website <http://www.springbranchisd.com/admin/gov/gov.htm>.

There is a bill to repeal the bill about bus evacuation drills.

### **Budget**

Dr. Klussmann shared that SBISD has a \$20M deficit and trying to cut it to \$10M. Some targeted areas will be reduced. They are evaluating all areas before making any reductions.

### **Five Year Plan Update**

Dr. Klussmann reviewed the Five Year Plan with the DIT. There are some weaknesses shown on the campus surveys and these are being addressed. The District will work hard to meet the goals that have not been met and to improve in all areas.

### **Tuition vs Non-tuition PK**

PK tuition of about \$1.2M helps offset the approximate cost of \$12M for the PK program. The cost is \$5,700 per student.

### **Next Meeting**

May 7, 2009 –Room 275 – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

This meeting will include the 2008-09 and 2009-10 DIT members. The members completing two years of service will be recognized and the newly elected/selected by lottery members will be introduced.

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