



**District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2021**  
**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**Meeting start time:** 5:01 pm

**Meeting end time:** 5:48 pm

**Member Attendance (24)**

Jennifer Blaine, J. Carter Breed, Minda Caesar, Anne Daily, Laura Dawson, Michael Ferrier, Darya Hasanova, Shaundra Jacobs, Vanya Karia, Richard Kelvin, Matt Kiger, Julie Knapp, Noemi Lopez, Larry Maple, Michelle Marcil, Lisse Colon Melendez, Michelle Nall, Abena Ntoso, John Pisklak, Jennifer Stuart, Van Tran, Julie Turrentine, Kate Waldorf, Katie Wiseman

*Percent of DIT members in attendance: 57.1%*

**Non-Member Attendance (6)**

Amy Accardo, Rebecca Brown, Linda Buchman, Sophia Petrou, Lance Stallworth, Trish Thomas

**District Update**

Dr. Jennifer Blaine announced TEA's decision to hold districts harmless from financial penalties due to lower attendance caused by the pandemic. She also clarified that Spring Branch will maintain a mask requirement for the remainder of this school year, despite the removal of the statewide mandate. Finally, Dr. Blaine noted that educators are now prioritized for the Covid-19 vaccine, and the district will work with partners when possible to facilitate vaccine opportunities.

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

DIT Co-Chair John Pisklak called for a motion to approve the February minutes as posted. Member Anne Daily moved to approve and member Michael Ferrier seconded. No members opposed.

**Student Handbook Update**

Dr. Lance Stallworth, Executive Director for Student Support Services, reviewed the annual update process for the Student Handbook. Limited changes are proposed for next school year, with new items only affecting Child Nutrition Services, Athletics, and Technology. Dr. Stallworth briefly reviewed these updates with the group and answered questions.

**Code of Conduct Update**

Sophia Petrou, Executive Director for Secondary Administration, provided a similar overview of the Code of Conduct. For next school year, there are two proposed additions around the topics of bullying and drug/alcohol use. Ms. Petrou reviewed that language with the committee and answered questions.

**District Improvement Plan Update**

Dr. Rebecca Brown, Executive Director for Student Instructional Services, provided a brief update on the District Improvement Plan (DIP). The DIP's purpose is to provide a clear vision to ensure effective, well-supported teachers, a high quality curriculum, and a positive school culture. Strategies are based on Superintendent and Board priorities, and should align with our T-2-4 goal. Directors in each area measure progress against goals several times throughout the year, using data from multiple measures. The next district-wide review happens this month.

### **Visioning for the Future Committee Update – Core Characteristics of a T-2-4 Ready Graduate**

Ms. Linda Buchman, Associate Superintendent for Communications and Community Engagement, provided an update on the Visioning Committee's work and final recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Based on the Committee's recommendations, the Board approved the following Core Characteristics:

(Spring Branch students are...)

- Academically Prepared;
- Ethical and Service Minded;
- Empathetic and Self Aware;
- Persistent and Adaptable;
- Resourceful Problem Solvers; and
- Communicators and Collaborators.

Work will now move forward to embed these characteristics into the system.

Ms. Buchman also noted that 2021 DIT Elections have concluded, and a list of incoming members will soon be posted. May is the last DIT meeting for those with terms ending in 2021.

Finally, Ms. Buchman announced the start of a new Communications audit, conducted by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). This work will begin right after Spring Break, and results will demonstrate how Spring Branch performs in communications relative to other districts throughout the country.

### **Closing**

Mr. Pisklak adjourned the meeting at 5:48pm.