



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2021
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Meeting start time: 5:01 pm

Meeting end time: 6:19 pm

Current Member Attendance (26)

Jennifer Blaine, Carla Braxton, Carter Breed, Minda Caesar, Lisse Colon Melendez, Kristin Craft, Anne Daily, Laura Dawson, Darya Hasanova, Vanya Karia, Richard Kelvin, Matt Kiger, Julie Knapp, Noel Lezama, Noemi Lopez, Larry Maple, Buffie Matthews, Michelle Nall, Abena Ntoso, John Pisklak, Victoria Putnam, William Schwartz, Jennifer Stuart, Julie Turrentine, Kate Waldorf, Katie Wiseman

Percent of current DIT members in attendance: 61.9%

Incoming Member Attendance (10)

Crystal Arrington, Cara Cullen, Kathleen Holder, Sarah Morris, Heather Morse, Yehee Perry, Rebecca Ramey, Charles Reed, Jennifer Sharp, Joy Stuart

Non-Member Attendance (5)

Amy Accardo, Linda Buchman, Lawanda Coffee, Christina Masick, Christine Porter

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

DIT Co-Chair Anne Daily called for a motion to approve the March minutes. Member Larry Maple noted his name was missing from the March 4 attendance log. Pending that correction, he motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Daily asked members to vote using the chat feature, and 19 members voted to approve.

Introduce New 2021-22 DIT Members and Thank You to Outgoing Members

Ms. Daily introduced new certified staff, parents and community members who will serve on the DIT from 2021-2023. These include Sarah Morris, Yehee Perry, Cara Cullen, Kathleen Holder, Rebecca Ramey, Charles Reed, Crystal Arrington, Heather Morse, Jennifer Sharp, Emily Sperandio, and Joy Stuart.

Outgoing members were also recognized. These include Katie Wiseman, Soha Nassef, Michelle Marcil, Ivonne Davis, Mary Hand, Christian Rice, Shaundra Jacobs, Barbara Kennedy, Molly Ferguson, John Pisklak, Kim Lemex, Noel Lezama, Bibbin Gill, and Michelle Garcia.

District Update

Dr. Jennifer Blaine expressed gratitude to outgoing DIT members and provided a brief district update. SBISD is closely watching a few bills in the state Legislature - namely HB 1468. This bill provides flexibility for districts to receive funding for providing virtual learning. If passed, SBISD is considering offering a secondary virtual school as a choice option. Dr. Blaine also noted SBISD will receive \$86M in ESSER III funds, earmarked to help bridge Covid learning loss and supplement costs of Covid safety procedures and equipment. Lastly, Dr. Blaine stated that all 2021 SBISD graduations would take place outdoors at Tully Stadium.

ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) III

Christine Porter, Associate Superintendent for Finance, provided an overview of ESSER III. These are funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to reopen and sustain school operations and mitigate Covid's impact on students. Texas will receive \$11.2B in funds, and the state may not use that money to supplant funds from other sources. SBISD's one-time allocation of \$86M must be used by 2024. ESSER also requires local districts to seek public input on how to spend their money and to provide regular updates.

Ms. Lawanda Coffee, Director of External Funds & Compliance, discussed some proposed SBISD activities using ESSER funds:

- Extended day and extended year summer school
- Instructional materials, training and class supports for reading, math and science
- Job-embedded professional learning at all levels
- Instructional coaching for middle/high teachers of long-term EL students
- Supports for newcomers
- Positive behavior intervention systems
- After-school program coordination
- Virtual school
- PPE and supplies to clean/sanitize facilities

Ms. Porter noted that once a plan is finalized, she would provide regular updates to the Board on spending.

2021-22 ESSA Plan

Ms. Coffee also provided an update on ESSA, which provides four areas of funding – Title I, II, III, and IV. Title spending should align with district priorities and Texas Education Agency priorities, including recruitment and retention of teachers and principals, building a foundation of reading and math, connecting high school to career and college, improving low performing schools, and family engagement.

- Title I supports schools with primarily low-income students. Next year, SBISD expects to receive \$11M.
- Title II supports recruitment and retention of high quality teachers and principals, plus professional development. Next year, SBISD expects to receive \$1.4M.
- Title III supports English language learners, helping them attain English proficiency. Next year, SBISD expects to receive \$1.1M.
- Title IV supports providing efforts that provide students with a well-rounded educational experience. This is the most flexible fund, but also the smaller. Next year, SBISD expects \$750,000.

Strong Start Plan

Dr. Kristin Craft, Associate Superintendent for Academics, discussed the 2021-22 Strong Start Learning Acceleration Plan, which addresses unfinished learning needs created by the pandemic. The plan focuses on areas of greatest need, including teacher/leader coaching, interventions, instructional materials, time strategies, and staffing/scheduling. Academic Directors will pull student achievement data to uncover learning gaps by grade span, allowing instructional teams to identify new actions and strategies for acceleration and recovery. Success will be measured against the Effective Schools Framework, which includes strong school leadership and planning; effective, well-supported teachers; a positive school culture; high-quality curriculum; and effective instruction. Continuous improvement cycles allow for monitoring of results and ongoing training. Training will be integrated into the district's summer Professional Development catalogue, including Leadership U, District Staff Development Day, and other key opportunities based on Superintendent priorities.

Elementary Devices

Christina Masick, Associate Superintendent for Technology Services, opened a discussion about the use of technology devices by elementary students. Prior to the pandemic, SBISD did not provide 1:1 devices below the secondary level. Since resources have expanded significantly, Technology must now switch from a reactive to a proactive mode. Some elementary school Principals wish to continue leveraging devices for instruction, and they have shared examples of success, including a growth in e-book usage and applications to explore word work, math, and science content. Technology is now seeking feedback from key stakeholders to create a district-wide technology deployment policy. Some issues to consider include how to provide tech support at campuses; how to handle broken or stolen equipment; how to train teachers properly; how students will use the devices; and how much screen time is appropriate.

Ms. Masick noted that technology exists to support the district's instructional and operational needs, so all decisions must be made through that lens. With that information, the Committee discussed and provided feedback to the following questions:

- Should all elementary students have a personal device? If so, should they bring it back and forth to school each day or leave it at home? (Members were asked to differentiate between the Pre-K to 2nd grade age span and the 3rd-5th grade age span.)
- What is the right type of device for the various grade levels – iPads or Chromebooks?

After a robust discussion, Ms. Masick noted that her team would compile feedback from all groups to draft a comprehensive policy.

Closing

Ms. Daily thanked Committee members and called for closing remarks.

Ms. Linda Buchman, Associate Superintendent for Communications and Community Engagement noted the 2021-22 DIT meeting dates are listed on the agenda and calendar appointments are forthcoming. Next year's meetings may be a combination of in-person and Zoom.

Dr. Craft also noted that the virtual school option survey is still open for participation.

Finally, Dr. Blaine offered thanks for a great year, and Ms. Daily adjourned the meeting at 6:19pm.