



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)

2017-2018

Official Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2017 approved 1-31-2018

NOTE: the November 13, 2017 DEIC Meeting was cancelled.

Dr. Esperanza Zendejas
Superintendent of Schools

Facilitators: Bertha Peña, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Roni Louise Rentfro, Ed. D., District Coordinator of School Improvement

I. Welcome by Dr. Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent of Schools with opportunities for representatives to ask questions for clarifications

- She shared that the early release incentive was definitely not about pushing anyone out, it is an opportunity for those that want to retire or resign from the district to get an incentive pay. By committing to the early incentive, it allows the district to plan to replace areas of need and helps to address the need to reduce force based on enrollment. District needs science teachers still and some English teachers for this year.
- There will be a climate survey coming out in January. Although it will be separated into instructional, support, and classified staff, will not be able to sort out individually who made specific responses. Region One will be conducting and collecting the data and provide report to the board and district. It will be anonymous and only take three to four minutes.
- District of Innovation plan was posted and still concerns that it will give district other liberties. Cannot without go through the entire process again. Calendar process will start if approved with three choices with one starting two weeks earlier and others one week earlier. Dr. Zendejas prefers one week but is two week option. Calendar options will come through the DEIC and campuses will vote and then recommend the calendar option to the board.
- Passionate about the community and know difficulty feeding students. Need to support the dinner program so more kids can get dinner before they go home. Looking into options, especially for those that ride the bus, to get dinner. Currently the district provides about 31,000 breakfasts, 35,000 lunches, and about 5,000 dinners. District is pursuing options to help push the increase for the dinner feeding systems and even considering sack dinners for the students for after school activities. Want to make sure lunch is not the last meal for the day for students that are in need, but need to keep working with the Federal and State feeding requirements. Working on options for campuses to allow students to pick up non-perishables remaining from lunch at the end of the day or getting dinner after school although may mean later bus routes and pick-up times for students. Will be looking at instructional minutes at the end for next year. One member noted that there are issues, especially for pregnant students, needing more calories than the current guidelines allow. Dr. Zendejas says she has already asked Senator Lucio to try to help address. Currently the district would have to pay for extra servings or servings from students who are absent, especially for Lincoln Park students. Shared tables are in place already at some campuses. Various members commented in support of finding ways to provide more feeding options for students and avoid wasting foods. Goal to keep students from going hungry, at least during the week.
- One representative asked about plans to add another period to teacher schedules for middle schools but the Superintendent stated that she has heard no such recommendations.



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- At high school the campuses are being rated against small ECHS so our schools did not get many distinctions. Principals and district staff are looking at going to school-within-a-school ECHS for next year instead of wall-to-wall.
- Dr. Zendejas told the members to give all of their family members a hug from her. She said that she was taking a message from Coach Mark Guess to his players to say to those at the meeting that if no one had told them today that they loved them that she did because it is a powerful message. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

II. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Clement Markley, DEIC President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the BISD Boardroom.

III. Roll Call:

The following DEIC members were not in attendance and their campus was not represented:

LOCATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
<i>BECHS</i>	Garcia	Alberto
<i>Brownsville Academic Center</i>	Garcia	Ninfa
<i>Garden Park Elem.</i>	Vera	Martina
<i>Longoria Elem.</i>	Gonzalez	Margarita
<i>Lucio MS</i>	Carey-Jo	Alfaro-Sweatt
<i>Palm Grove Elem.</i>	Garza	Eliseo
<i>Paredes Elem.</i>	Rodriguez	Myra
<i>Pullam Elem.</i>	Bodden	Maria
<i>Russell Elem.</i>	Hernandez	Xavier

- Substitutes were present for Rosa Pones, Administrator for Health Services, Elizabeth Garcia for BLA HS, and Andres Martinez for Pace ECHS.
- Welcoming new members Viviana Trejo replacing Suzy Valdez for Morningside Elementary and Irma Ruiz replacing Miriam Arizmendi-Garza for Canales Elementary.

IV. Recommend approval of Minutes

1. Andres Martinez from Pace ECHS made the motion to approve the October 16, 2017, DEIC unofficial minutes as official and Pat Nelson from Lincoln Park School seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Teodoro Soto, Champion Elementary, made the motion and Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary seconded the motion to approve the October 26, 2017 Special Called Meeting unofficial minutes with the correction for Stillman MS to be shown as present. The motion was approved unanimously.



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V. Presentations

1. Dr. Roni Rentfro presented a brief overview of the Public Education Grant (PEG) status for BISD campuses for the current year and next year. The district has decreased the PEG campuses from six to one over the past several years. This year the PEG campuses are Porter ECHS and Perkins MS and next year it will only be Lucio MS. A brief description of how campuses are placed on the PEG list and it was noted that in the past about 30 students had used the transfer option to change schools. Berta Peña noted that it was a big concern because it was a result of only 50% or fewer students passing a particular content state assessment at least two out of the past three years.
2. Ms. Berta Peña thanked the representatives from elementary, middle and high schools who had volunteered for and participated in the Calendar Committee. She explained that the committee had created 3 versions with the start date of August 27, 2018 and highlighted some of the items in common in all of the versions including keeping one week for Thanksgiving and Spring Break and two weeks for the Winter/Christmas Holidays. She noted that the committee would be meeting on Thursday, December 7th to create versions of these three calendars that would start either one or two weeks earlier than the current last Monday in August. She further explained that if the Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation then the campuses would be voting on the flexed versions, but if the board does not approve the DOI then the campuses would be selecting from three versions starting August 27, 2018. Ms. Pena reminded members that they would be receiving one of the sets of calendar options next week with the expectation that they would share them with all of the campus staff and with a roster so everyone could vote for their preference. DEIC representatives would be expected to bring their campus selection to the January 22, 2018 meeting. The recommendation would then be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for their approval.
3. Berta Peña and Dr. Rentfro shared the drafted new goals, performance objectives, and strategies created by the New Goals Subcommittee to address the Board of Trustees request to have all of the Board Goals included in the District Improvement Plan. The members of the subcommittee were asked to stand and be recognized for their work on using the new Board goals and creating DIP goals, performance objectives and strategies. Several members asked clarifying questions or made comments in support of the new additions to the District Improvement Plan.

VI. Action Items

1. Dr. Roni Louise Rentfro and Berta Pena asked the representatives to approve the new goals, performance objectives and strategies as proposed by the New Goal Subcommittee with any needed corrections or revisions. Gertrudes Martinez, Manzano Middle School Representative, made the motion and Luz Marshall, Martin Elementary seconded the motion to approve the new goals, performance objectives, and strategies. Approval was unanimous.



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VII. Announcements

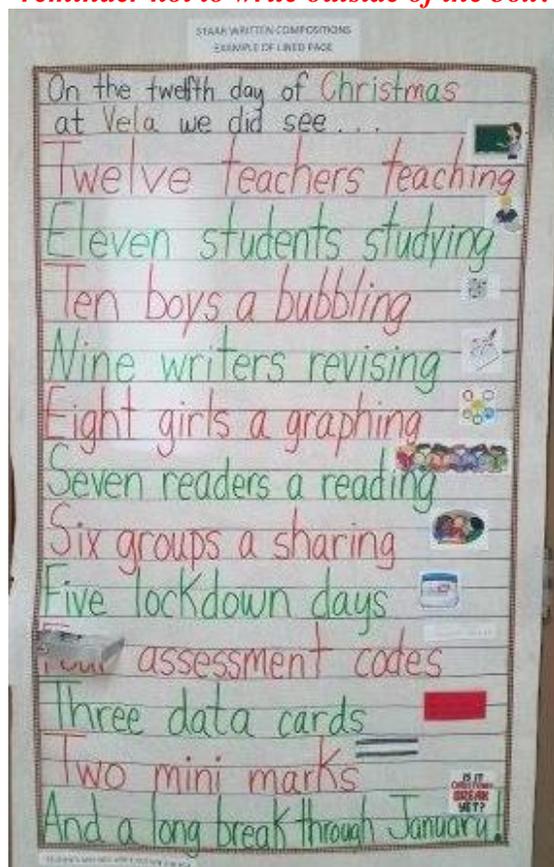
Mr. Markley announced the next meeting would be January 22, 2018 (PDS# 65935) at 5:30 PM at the BISD Boardroom.

The DEIC officers and facilitators wished everyone a very Happy Holidays. Dr. Rentfro explained that the “snow” each member received only needed about a cup of water to turn into “snow” they could use to enjoy the season.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Markley called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Noe Granado, Business Representative, made the motion and Debra Hill from Garcia Middle School, seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

A short holiday message in the form of a STAAR written composition lined page—with the reminder not to write outside of the box!



Thank you to Marivel Guerrero, DEIC Representative from Vela Middle School for sharing.