



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)

2018-2019

Unofficial Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2018

Dr. Esperanza Zendejas
Superintendent of Schools

Facilitators: Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, 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

- Dr. Esperanza Zendejas apologized for missing the first DEIC meeting and welcomed members to the second DEIC meeting of the school year.
- She announced that the Instructional Calendar was going to be voted on by all employees this year. She would like to have a decision made by November in an effort to permit all staff enough time for planning for the following year.
- The committee was informed that the district was looking into increasing the extra-duty pay for next year, but that plan could reduce available campus funds in other areas, since most of these funds are from categorical programs.
- She also let the members know that there will be an upcoming celebration in honor of families, our community, and all BISD stakeholders for supporting our district.
- Yturria Elementary was recognized at the 2018 NCUST for their academic performance with a Gold Award and Ortiz Elementary with a Silver Award.
- Lincoln Park High School's rating is being appealed to the commissioner, because of the special circumstances for those students enrolled at the campus. She is asking TEA to change our rating from a "B" to the "A" that we actually scored.
- The District is looking to obtain more knowledge and support for pregnancy prevention and mental health.
- Regarding a question from the membership about lost enrollment, she responded that the enrollment has decreased by 3,000 students since 2015. This year's forecast was only off by about 21 students. Next year's budget will probably be adjusted to reflect another 1,000 fewer students. Public schools are outperforming charter schools, so we need to share and promote all of the events and accomplishments of our schools, teachers, students, parents, and community. Birth rates have also declined over the past several years which contributes to decreased enrollment.
- She thanked everyone and reminded us to keep the focus on educating kids.

II. Meeting Called to Order

Anna Gabbert, DEIC President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and introduced Dr. Esperanza Zendejas to conduct the welcome. She had the officers introduce themselves before going into the rest of the agenda.

III. Roll Call:

The following DEIC members were not in attendance and the campus did not have another campus representative attend to get the information for the campus:



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LOCATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Besteiro Elem.	<i>Martinez</i>	<i>Paulette</i>
Brite Elem.	<i>Gonzalez</i>	<i>Citlali</i>
Brownsville ECHS	<i>Garcia</i>	<i>Alberto</i>
Cromack Elem.	<i>Castillo</i>	<i>Maria</i>
Keller Elem.	<i>Hotcaveg</i>	<i>Sandra</i>
Martin Elem.	<i>Marshall</i>	<i>Luz</i>
Oliveira MS	<i>Gracia</i>	<i>Matthew</i>
Paredes Elem.	<i>Miranda</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>
Skinner Elem.	<i>Garcia</i>	<i>Adriana</i>
Stell MS	<i>Perea</i>	<i>Norma</i>
Veterans ECHS	<i>Gonzalez</i>	<i>Ana P.</i>

The following campus sent a substitute in the absence of their elected representative: Benavides Elementary.

IV. Recommend approval of minutes

Lisa Howell from Rivera ECHS made the motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2018, and Pat Nelson from Lincoln Park High School seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Presentations

A. Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, added his welcome to the DEIC members before he began presenting the drafts of the proposed 2019-2020 Instructional Calendars. Dr. Cuff asked all of the Calendar Committee members who were present stand and be recognized. He described the different areas that were considered by the committee members to create the calendar options. He emphasized that simplicity, democracy, and transparency were the primary focus of this year's election. He then presented the proposed process for this year:

1. Numbered paper ballots—one per each staff member at each campus and department
2. Roster or employee list for recording the employee submitted a ballot (NOT to record the actual vote)
3. Short voting period from the morning of Monday, October 22nd to the end of the school day on October 23rd
4. A one-day grace period may be given for submission for absent staff; however, the campus would only keep that one ballot and turn it in to his office by Wednesday, October 24th
5. Every employee's vote will count instead of a vote for the entire campus
6. All BISD employees will be given the opportunity to vote on the 2019-2020 Instructional Calendar options for either A or B
7. The calendar year cannot end earlier in May due to the proposed STAAR testing dates being moved to one week later for 2020.



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Dr. Cuff turned the presentation over to Dr. Rentfro to review and compare Option A and B. Key information included the start dates, holidays, and professional development days. Calendar A will start on Wednesday, August 14th for students and Calendar B will start on August 19th. Calendar B is basically the current calendar updated to the next school year.

- B. Dr. Roni Louise Rentfro, DCSI, gave a short presentation on the BISD ESSA Equity Plan and requested input on the two challenges identified last year by the district committee. The input will be used to update the plan before it is submitted to TEA on November 1, 2018.
- C. Alma Cardenas-Rubio presented information about the System of Great Schools four Levers and the committee discussed the benefits and deficits of the various rating styles and how they could be interpreted by the general public. She informed the DEIC membership that more information was available at greatschools.org and on the TEA website.
- D. Dr. Rentfro provided copies of the DEIC subcommittee membership assignments by campus and by member names. She noted that members will be more involved in the revisions and updates of the District Improvement Plan throughout the year and may also be called by some departments or programs to provide input into other plans or proposed programs or activities.

VI. Action Items

1. Gilbert Leal, BISD Athletics Administrator, presented the workshop pull-out day request for athletic coaches for a one-day in-service on December 7, 2018. Several representatives asked clarifying questions or provided feedback for consideration. Melissa Chavez from Gallegos Elementary made the motion to approve and Leonila Garcia from Stillman Middle School seconded the motion. The motion was approved with only four nay votes.
2. Dolores Emerson, Administrator for Elementary C&I, presented a request for pulling out some ELA/Reading teachers to be trained on and begin working on curriculum updates needed due to the revised ELA TEKS. Natalie Herfindahl from Sharp Elementary made the motion to approve and Virginia Guzman from Southmost Elementary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Announcements

- Ms. Gabbert announced the next meeting would be on November 12, 2018, at 5:30 PM at the BISD CAB Cafeteria and reminded members they would be pre-registered for the meetings. She also reminded members to please arrange for a substitute if they are unable to make a meeting.
- Members were asked to turn in their ESSA Equity Plan input as they turned in their name placards.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Anna Gabbert, DEIC President, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Evans from Castaneda Elementary made the motion to adjourn and Rosa Pones from Health Services seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 PM.