



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
 District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)
 2018-2019

Unofficial Meeting Minutes for December 17, 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 told the members that BISD is getting recognized around the state and credited it to a team effort from the board through the teachers.
- She announced that the Board approved Calendar A; however, the District is waiting for the State to release STAAR testing and make-up days, since there is a possibility of a STAAR make up day falling on Good Friday, so it is recommended that employees refrain from planning personal days based on the approved calendar, because of this discrepancy.
- She spoke briefly about the pending textbook adoption and that more information would come from Dr. Cuff.
- She invited everyone to the Hanna ECHS Band and Football recognition ceremony at 5:30 pm in the CAB Auditorium and then the Board Tamalada in the CAB Cafeteria from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, December 18th.
- She reminded members that we all return to work on January 7th and from that point it is hard work until Charro Days and then it is STAAR testing preparation.
- The district and the entire Region One overall is doing well and are getting many visitors to see what we are doing despite 92% of our students being low socio-economic, by being regarded as “the best performing district/region in the entire state of Texas”. We are expecting visitors this spring from Oklahoma. She thanked everyone and wished everyone a great holiday.

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.

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:

LOCATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
BLA High School	Sarah	Crixell
Cromack Elem.	Melissa	Castillo
Parades Elementary	Sylvia	Miranda

The following campuses sent substitutes in the absence of their elected representative: Keller Elementary, Ortiz Elementary, Villa Nueva Elementary, Yturria Elementary, Manzano Middle School and Vela Middle School.

IV. Recommend approval of minutes

Lisa Howell from Rivera ECHS made the motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2018, and Ella Rios, representing Keller Elementary, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.



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V. Presentations

- A. Dr. Roni Louise Rentfro, DCSI, gave a short presentation on the BISD PBMAS performance levels and staging. She showed the members how to look at the state levels that were the cut points for the program areas. Bilingual, CTE, ESSA, and Special Education are all evaluated using this accountability. Performance levels of “0” are best while a “3” is bad. She showed them how to look at the district scores and see the performance level. She also explained the “required improvement” (RI) where the district got a “0” because if they continued the same progress in another year would be at the cut point for a “0”. On the last page of the report she showed the calculations for staging. BISD is Stage 1 for Bilingual, CTE and Special Education. The ESSA score would be a Stage 1 but because they had no performance levels of 2 or 3 they are not staged. Also wanted to congratulate the Special Education program and our teachers for being in compliance and meeting the School Performance Plan measures as well as only being Stage 1 for PBMAS. She reminded the members we have to keep watching the disproportionality for a higher percentage of Special Education students being sent to ISS and/or OSS than non-Special Education served students.
- B. Carlos Olvera, the Administrator for Bilingual Education/ESL presented the information about the Bilingual and ESL certification plan to meet the state Chapter 89 requirements.
1. The program is paying stipends, mileage, and other expenses to help facilitate teacher preparation for and taking of the certification exam(s). The pull-out sessions are scheduled to assist getting all of the pending Elementary ELA, Special Education, and Secondary ELAR teachers. Trying to get secondary core area teachers as well this year. The Bilingual Department is paying for substitutes for BIL/ESC related conferences and workshop sessions. He reminded the members that any core teachers teaching ELs must have the certification. Some that are not core are attending because they may get change of assignment or to be more marketable. Note: This is not a requirement for Elective Subject Teachers.
 2. Carlos Olvera also went over the new performance objective and strategy under Goal 7. He explained the difference between Bilingual certification and ESL certification: Bilingual certification will cover as high as a teacher’s content certification level while ESL is for secondary content primarily because BISD does not do much ESL at the Elementary level. It is important for math, science and social studies to get ESL certified.
 3. He clarified that if the Special Education teacher is the only teacher providing the ELAR courses for a student then they need to be certified. Also, Bilingual teachers need to pass two exams—the Bilingual certification and the Bilingual Proficiency Test for Spanish. The process started in September 2018. Please help teachers know about the sessions.
 4. Alma Cardenas-Rubio added that this all needs to be completed by June 30, 2019. This is the only year we can do the waiver for ESL, Bilingual can be requested again. The entire state of Texas is letting the TEA commissioner know about the cost and time needed to do this. The district now requires Bilingual/ESL certification to apply for elementary and secondary core positions.
 5. Carlos Olvera answered questions and provided additional clarifications for members.
- C. Alma Cardenas-Rubio presented information about the System of Great Schools four Levers and the new guidance and information on the BISD Technology Plan.



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1. She explained that Lever 1: Manage School Performance is working on the district data dashboard. If the district does not get the purchased software this year will use the free online program, greaterschools.org, for this year so can begin setting up in January. The areas that the schools will be rated on are the following: State Performance and Academics; Attendance; Discipline; PEIMS indicators; Survey results from staff, parents and students; Staff experience, qualifications and degrees; Co- and extra-curricular listing/performance; Dual Enrollment, TSI and other HS profile information; College Readiness; and Technology Access (1:1 percentage).
2. Lever 2: Expanding Great Options is working on the proposals for quality schools and possible repurposing of some schools as well as the expansion of the sixth grade program at some elementary campuses. There are nine campuses that have expressed interest in adding 6th grade. It is also working to promote on-line PLCs and additional instructional coaching.
3. Lever 3: Improve Access Options is working on the online registration for the district and expanding school choice. Will begin with elementary and then go to secondary and already enrolled registrations. One of the biggest challenges is transportation. She admitted being surprised that some of the challenges such as insufficient number of drivers and routing to meet the different bell schedules were more difficult to solve than she thought. Looking into cluster pick up locations and multiple bus staging areas around Brownsville among other options.
4. Lever 4: Foster School Autonomy group will be meeting with the CFO and successful principals to learn more about the autonomy they do have. Transparency and autonomy is key to this area. The group will be meeting on January 16, 2019.
5. She went quickly over the 7 gears of the Educational Technology Future Ready Framework (DEIC Members have a copy of the information that should be shared): 1) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; 2) Use of Space and Time; 3) Robust Infrastructure; 4) Data and Privacy; 5) Community Partnerships; 6) Personalized Professional Learning; and 7) Budget and Resources.
6. Ms. Rubio told members that all 9th grade students will be receiving a digital device (iPad/Tablet), to assist with their High-School Experience, that they may keep after graduation and they are beginning to be distributed.
7. She announced that on January 10th at 9:00 AM all schools will have teachers and students in all classrooms log on to the internet to test out the district's capability and each campus will map out where the access is/ is not working.
8. Several members brought up concerns that some special education resource and self-contained students are not being able to have full access to the distributed tablet devices. She noted that there is a big need still but are working with programs and campuses to get access at all levels. The expenses are huge and the department is doing it what can, but because it was initially done through State Compensatory and Bilingual funding, there were some gaps in some areas.
9. Several Special Education teachers in the audience expressed related concerns and she assured them they are working to address the concerns. One of the problems was that not all teachers completed the survey about needed technology and she encouraged members to encourage their faculty to complete the needs survey.



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10. She told the members the district was now active on all three platforms and g-suite is coming. Google will be sending a presenter to next year's symposium for free instead of charging \$20,000 for his presentation because of how impressed they are with BISD.

11. Dr. Rentfro noted that the Technology, Goal 8 subcommittee, will need to meet soon to transfer the goal and performance objective from the STAR-chart to the Future Ready Framework Gears.

D. Dr. Rentfro provided a revised copy of the DEIC subcommittee membership assignments by campus and by members' names. She noted that some did not get their first choice because of the need for each subcommittee to have broad a representation including elementary, middle and high schools as well as special programs. She explained that members of some of the subcommittees would probably be starting to meet in January and that all subcommittees would be meeting in February, March and April to develop the 2019-2020 plan. If interested in working on the School Performance Framework for Lever 1 of the System Great Schools, please contact her or Alma Rubio. She recruited leaders for a few of the subcommittees to help guide the members at their meetings.

VI. Action Items

- A. Carlos Olvera, BISD Bilingual Department Administrator, presented the request for Goal 7, Performance Objective 3, Strategy 1 to be approved by the DEIC members. Zuri Sierra from Longoria Elementary made the motion to approve and Martina Vera from Garden Park Elementary School seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- B. Carlos Olvera, BISD Bilingual Department Administrator request DEIC approve of pull-out days for trainings for groups of teachers to prepare for the Bilingual or ESL Certification Exams as part of the Bilingual/ESL compliance activities. Edgar Diaz from Faulk Middle School made the motion to approve and Lisa Howell from Rivera Early College High School seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- C. Sara Garza-Gonzalez, Administrator for Guidance and Counseling, presented a request for pulling out ten middle school At-Risk Counselors to be trained on and begin working with students for the Region One Student Leadership Cadre program. After several questions from a member about the timing and which students were to be included, Lisa Howell from Rivera ECHS made the motion to approve and Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary School seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Announcements

Ms. Gabbert announced the next meeting would be on January 21, 2019, at 5:30 PM at the BISD CAB Cafeteria and reminded members they would be pre-registered for the meeting. She also reminded members to please arrange for a substitute if they are unable to make a meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Anna Gabbert, DEIC President, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Micaela Escobar from Employee Benefits made the motion to adjourn and Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary School seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 PM.