



Brownsville Independent School District

1900 Price Road Brownsville, Texas 78521-2417

Office of School Improvement

Dr. Roni Louise Rentfro, Ed. D.

District Coordinator of School Improvement

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1900 E. Price Rd, Suite 206C

Brownsville, TX 78521

Dr. Anyisia Treviño
Deputy Superintendent for C&I and
Human Resources

Dr. Dora E. Saucedo
Assistant Superintendent for C&I

Dr. René Gutiérrez
Superintendent

District Education Improvement Council

Unofficial Minutes for January 13, 2020

CAB Cafeteria PDS # 113318

BISD Mission Statement

Brownsville Independent School District will graduate students who are prepared to excel in higher education and successfully pursue career opportunities in a changing global society by maximizing resources to ensure equitable opportunities for all students.

I. Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Ninfa Garcia, Vice-president at 5:30 PM at CAB Cafeteria.

II. Roll Call Conducted by Dr. Ninfa Garcia, Vice-president.

The following campus representatives were absent and no substitute was in attendance:

Location	Last Name	First Name
Faulk MS	Diaz	Edgar
Garden Park Elementary	Vera	Martina
Lopez ECHS	Benavides	Andrea
Oliveira MS	Gracia	Matthew
Villa Nueva Elementary	Vela	Ernie
District Level	Escobar	Micaela

Substitutes were present for the following campuses:

Location	Representative	Substitute
Benavides Elementary	Arredondo, Sandra	Besteiro, Lucila
Burns Elementary	McDonough, Sylvia	Bohn, Leticia
Canales Elementary	Garcia, Carmen	Ruiz, Irma
Pace ECHS	Gabbert, Anna	Gomez, Luis
Putegnat Elementary	Campos, Veronica	Fernandez, Homer
Skinner Elementary	Saiz-Broussard, Celia	Cortinas, Sonia

III. Welcome by Dr. René Gutiérrez, BISD Superintendent

Dr. Gutierrez thanked the council members for being there and wished them a Happy New Year. He asked for a moment of silence for Private First Class Villalon, a student who attended Perez Elementary, Oliveira Middle School, and Hanna ECHS, who was killed in Afghanistan.

Dr. Gutierrez expressed his gratitude for members' dedication to the district. He noted that the committee is required by the state to give a voice to the district's campuses, community, and staff. He said it was good to have

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agenda items to discuss and information to share. He has been Superintendent for seven months. He noted that with over 50 campuses and 43,000 students it is a big job. He is proud of the district's many accomplishments. He told the members that BISD was an "A" district because of the hard work done by the teachers, staff and students at the campuses. He said many good things are happening in district but we want to make sure all continue to move forward.

He told members that our number one client is our students and it is important to provide quality programs inside and outside of the classroom. He said we want to see our students compete and succeed in whatever they choose to do after graduation. He informed members that it is important to work together in dealing with the good and bad to continue to improve the district. He recommends individuals not only bring up the problems or challenges but also bring a solution about how to get it addressed. He did tell members that he is out visiting classrooms and buildings but he has an open door policy and all are welcome. He reminded the council members that we all need be intentional in what we do the next few months to make sure students are better in May than when they came in to the classroom in August. He noted he is very focused on providing the materials and supports needed to continue to improve BISD.

He asked members if they liked the more professional look and feel to the CAB Cafeteria with new tables, chairs, and media services. The members responded with a round of applause. He stressed making sure that the district puts forward a professional appearance that reflects the image of the successful district that BISD is. He again thanked members for devoting the time needed to help improve BISD.

IV. The Unofficial Minutes of the Monday, November 18, 2019, DEIC Meeting, were approved unanimously without any corrections after the motion to approve by Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary and seconded by Pat Nelson from Lincoln Park High School.

V. Presentations

A. Roni Louise Rentfro, DCSI, provided a short overview of the BISD TAPR, Campus Report Cards, and Results Driven Accountability (previously known as PBMAS) reports and described briefly how campuses and council members should use the reports for updating the campus and district needs assessments and plans. Dr. Rentfro pointed out some of the areas in the RDA report that were the reasons for the district program Performance Levels of 1 for Career and Technical Education and Special Education. This year there were a large number of indicators that were not rated as part of the changes going from the old district program accountability to the new accountability system. Dr. Rentfro informed the council members that these indicators would begin to impact the ratings or performance levels in the next two years.

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Dr. Rentfro noted that the program area departments would begin working with campuses where the disaggregated data indicated that a campus had challenges to be addressed to make sure the district's performance levels improved. Carlos Olvera, Administrator for Bilingual Education; Mary Tolman, Administrator for Special Programs; and Mary Lou Esparza, Administrator for Federal Programs; were in the audience to answer questions. Dr. Anysia Trevino, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Human Resources, wanted to assure that all members would get a copy of the full reports. Dr. Rentfro said she would send out the information with the direct links and district reports to all members.

- B. The presentation on Federal program funding and requirements was made by Mary Tolman, Administrator for Special Programs supported by Mary Lou Esparza, Administrator for Federal Programs, and Gustavo Garza, Federal Programs Coordinator. Mary Tolman provided an overview of the Federal funds that are mostly used to support activities under Goals 1, 6, and 7. Dr. Rentfro also said Goal 9. She informed members of some of the details in how the funds were allocated for salaries, stipends, and other areas. She reviewed funding for Title I-A (211), Title II-A (secondary stipends and elementary 5th grade supplemental teachers), and Title IV. She noted the total funds for various district-wide budgets as well as a breakdown for the amounts allocated to each campus and program. Some funds must be provided to the private schools as well by federal requirements.

She told members about the mini-grants sent to campuses to help upgrade computers that are about to be obsolete that were purchased with federal funds. Every campus has some federal personnel costs but what the campuses budget are the funds that available after payroll. Ms. Tolman reminded the members about the data that should be reviewed by the DEIC and SBDM to conduct the required campus needs assessment. She highlighted not just scores from state, district and campus assessments but surveys, attendance, discipline, grades, and other ways of determining needs. The same process for going through the needs assessments and revising the improvement plan at the district should be done at the campus but to even finer detail.

TEA does audit that the district and campuses are following the process as required. It is very important that the campuses make sure to have multiple parents on the Site-based Decision-making that are present for the meetings. TEA requires at least two parents and policy requires that at least two community and two business representatives are also included and attend meetings. TEA validates sixteen areas and the campus must document that they are meeting these indicators, especially to have the parents and others participating. It was recommended that committees have more than two so that at least two are present at the meetings. It was also recommended that student members be added to the SBDM for high schools.

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After member questions, she clarified the difference between the determination of amount of funds sent to the district and which students the funds are spent for and how they are allocated. She also provided her email address: mtolman@bisd.us and welcomed members to email her any questions.

VI. Action Items

- A. Michelle Seney, STEM Curriculum Specialist, requested approval for 2019-2020 Curriculum Department STEM MS training pull-out days for Defined STEM/Project-based Learning training. She explained to members that the software supports the implementation of middle school project-based learning. The training is for two math and two science teachers from each middle school to be able to implement this program. The pull-out is only one day of training for each teacher but the training is for a total of 40 teachers. Once teachers are trained, the teachers will look at the TEKS in the fifth six weeks to determine what projects will be implemented before the end of the year.

In answering a member's question, she explained that the district has purchased the software for both teachers and students. Students will access the software through Clever. She added that the program is literacy-based and any content area can find projects there. Project-based learning is very beneficial for students. The district is starting with the middle school STEM programs and plans to expand it into other areas. The motion to approve was made by Rachel Guerrero from Vermillion Elementary and seconded by Celia de Lara from Manzano MS. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Announcements

- A. Next DEIC Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2020, at 5:30 PM at CAB Cafeteria
- B. Members will continue to be pre-registered for the meetings in the Professional Development System. Substitutes should register for the session (PDS#113319).

VIII. Adjournment

- A. The motion to adjourn was made by Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary and seconded by Patricia Martinez from Breeden Elementary School. The council members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:35 p.m.