



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)

2016-2017

Official Meeting Minutes approved April 24, 2017

Monday, March 20, 2017

5:30 pm

CAB Cafeteria

SR#9191702706

**Facilitators: Berta 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

Berta Peña, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction did the initial welcome because Dr. Zendejas was delayed:

- Ms. Peña thanked committee members for their dedication and reminded them that the work the committee was starting for development of the 2017-2018 District Improvement Plan was important for improving the success of BISD students
- She used a current District Improvement Plan strategy to illustrate how the subcommittees need to take the time to make sure the strategies are clear and targeted

Dr. Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent of Schools, gave her welcome at the end of the meeting. She shared the following topics with the DEIC and answered questions from the membership:

- BISD is considering applying for a District of Innovation to be able to start school earlier in August to better compete with charter schools.
- BISD is also considering starting at least the pre-kindergarten program earlier since not bound by start date restrictions.
- House Bill 21 has been filed in Texas legislature that could increase per pupil funding by \$100 or \$200
- March 22nd BISD will have ribbon cutting for Rivera athletic facility that is not just for use by Rivera ECHS but the entire district for activities and events
- Hanna Drumline is going to national competition after winning at the state level
- Congratulated Pace ECHS Principal Rose Longoria for being named one of the finalists for HEB Principal of the Year
- BISD is still waiting to learn if it will get one of 6 HEB grant grants to help create future leaders for BISD and/or the HEB Large District \$100,000 award
- Looking for ways to raise teacher salaries with the support of the Board
- Expanding Pre-K programs at more elementary campuses for next year
- Recent IDEA ad in paper compared the entire valley IDEA program to BISD using the A-F ratings that are not yet in effect but BISD will not use any negative ads to respond. Dr. Zendejas complemented Drue Brown for making sure that the community received information about great events and accomplishments of BISD students through ads and other media



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- Dr. Zendejas will schedule another voluntary meeting opportunity for DEIC members to meet with her (like in the Fall) to ask questions and get information directly from her—watch for email through principals and Dr. Rentfro
- The Foundation grant applications will be posted on the website this week for both teacher grants for activities and student scholarships. Applications are due April 18th
- In response to a question about news regarding defunding of some federal programs, she noted that TEA had not notified the district to stop spending funds for any programs and that no legislation had yet to be passed. One example given was the free lunch program. If it was to be defunded then districts would be notified to stop services and this has not happened.
- She noted that BISD is planning to expand the cold storage for the district Food Services Department so more fresh fruit and vegetables can be served
- In response to a question about the status of the 5th grade iPads/tablets, she noted that the purchase is still pending board approval and took longer than planned but the district must go through the appropriate steps to make the purchase.
- She also noted that BISD continues to look for means to close the technology gap with many areas of Brownsville where there is no internet services and many families do not have devices even when there is access to wi-fi service. The Border Wall proximity also interferes with access. Pearson as well as other Brownsville organizations are looking for ways to afford to address the issues.
- Cummings update included the reminders that Cummings is transitioning to help middle schools and high schools with significant numbers of over age students as well as facilitate the ability to offer CTE programs for campuses that cannot have their own program. The district needs to close down the Webb campus because the facility is in very bad shape.

II. Meeting Called to Order

Clement Markley, DEIC President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

III. Roll Call:

The following DEIC members were not in attendance (most were absent due to illness or family emergencies but campuses need to have a substitute representative available if at all possible):

LOCATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
<i>Brite Elem</i>	Citali	Gonzalez
<i>Cromack Elem</i>	Joanna	Rivas
<i>Cummings MS</i>	Cecilia	Uresti
<i>Lucio MS</i>	Dora E.	Paz
<i>Paredes Elem</i>	Myra	Rodriguez
<i>Porter ECHS</i>	PENDING	REPLACEMENT
<i>Sharp Elem</i>	Rebecca	Wood
<i>Vela MS</i>	Gonzalo	Gonzalez
<i>Vermillion Elem</i>	Jesus	Sanchez
<i>Victoria Hts Elem</i>	Christina	Cavazos-Leos



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IV. **Recommend approval of minutes**

Anna Gabbert from Pace ECHS made the motion and Alma Salazar from Resaca Elementary seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. **Presentations**

- A. **BISD Calendar for 2017-2018 information** was presented by Teresa de Saro. She informed the DEIC members that the Board of Trustees has not finished the March meeting and the approval of the calendar is still pending. The one the campuses voted for is still the one that the district is recommending.
- B. **District Improvement Plan review of goals, performance objectives and strategies supported by departmental representatives with recommendations for additions/deletions and revisions to the plan for 2017-2018** process was reviewed by Ms. Pena and Dr. Rentfro. Goal Subcommittees and introduced the Goal facilitators. assignments and asked the DEIC representatives to do some "homework" in preparing for the March 20th meeting to begin working on the District Improvement Plan for 2017-2018. She noted that all but one representative was assigned to their first or second choice.

VI. **Action Items**

None

VII. **Announcements**

Next DEIC Meeting – Monday, April 24, 2017, Professional Development System workshop #61760 at CAB Cafeteria and then breakout sessions in CAB for each goal

VIII. **Adjournment**

Clement Markley, DEIC President, called for a motion from the membership before dispersing to the breakout session sites to work on the District Improvement Plan. Carmen Garcia from Canales Elementary made the motion and Carlos Chavez from BAC seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM. The motion was approved unanimously.