



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)

2017-2018

Official Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2017

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

Dr. Zendejas told the members they were appreciated.

- She shared a little of her history working with various districts told the members that she has been a middle school English teacher and is fascinated with how students learn language. She said she credits BISD's successes to great principals and awesome teachers. She tells other districts that it is also due to expecting our students to learn English how we are transitioning our second language students sooner.
- She noted that the district had two site visits recently: Raise Your Hand Texas and Oklahoma City Public Schools Capitol High School. She told the members that when the OKC staff exited from their visit they told her how impressed they were with the quality of instruction they saw at Pace ECHS and Porter ECHS.
- Día de los Muertos tickets were on sale for the October 27th performances. Schools would get to keep half of the proceeds from the tickets they sell for the performances. She briefly described the story she would be telling and encouraged members to help support the Foundation. She provided more information about the holiday after questions from the members. She talked about some of the history of the holiday, how it has been commercialized, and some of the items that represent the holiday. She noted that Pablo Montero would be singing in the shows.
- She described how changes in the accountability groups impacted our early college high schools since they were now compared to small ECHS campuses. BISD is considering changing the ECHS models for the large high schools. The district wants to encourage all students go on the college--whether it is off to a big university, or UTRGV or TSC. The district is working closely with TSC to make sure students have more opportunities to attain degrees and certificates.
- She said insurance issues are still there. The district has about a 13 million dollar deficit to be addressed due to rising costs but is still only putting in the same amount of money. The Employee Benefits Committee (EBC) will be working with the administrations and making some recommendations. She requested members make sure all of their EBC members are engaged in the process and to be well-informed. She asked if any members were on that committee and a few raised their hands.
- BISD is working on an early resignation retirement incentive. It may have levels based on years of services with the district. The longer you have been with the district, the larger the incentive could be. The draft plan should be brought to the board in November but would not be for individuals who want to leave in December. The incentive would be for those that want to submit resignations early but plan work until the end of the school year.
- Dr. Zendejas introduced Mr. Garrido and explained that it took two months to put applicants through the rigorous process to replace Drue Brown. Ernie Garrido worked with *Times Magazine* in New York City and, although education is different, he has hit the ground running.



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- **Ernie Garrido** explained that he was a Pace HS graduate, Class of 2000. One of the new messages he wants to promote is that with BISD “the possibilities are endless.” All of Brownsville is part of BISD and he will be looking back to see how the city and district have grown up together. He wanted to encourage everyone to “like” BISD on Facebook, Twitter, and other media. Breaking news and information will be tweeted immediately. He plans to build on the legacy left by Drue Brown and noted that he did work with her in the past. His team will be run like a newsroom to provide information to media partners giving out accurate information. This was his second week on the job. He provided his contact email: egarrido@bisd.us and said individuals and campuses can email photos and information directly to him.
- **Bertha Peña** also thanked everyone for their participation in the Literacy Conference on September 28th at Lopez ECHS. She said over 500 individuals registered as participants. “Gurus” from around the nation presented information on ways to improve student literacy. BISD also hosted a workshop by Gretchen Bernabei with over 100 teachers in attendance.
- The Curriculum Department specialists are visiting schools and getting into classrooms to learn what your needs are or staff can help implement the curriculum. She hoped everyone is supporting students taking a book home twice a month. The content checkpoints were given by many teachers and knows not everyone was happy with the results but the district is not comparing one campuses or teachers data to others—it is for campus and teacher use. The checkpoints are important to help teachers focus on specific content and skills. The A-Z software and more books are coming as well--mostly to the middle schools and BLA.
- The district is working with TSC. BISD would have to graduate 90% with college to meet new ECHS goals because TEA has raised the accountability criteria for ECHS. BISD is working with the ECHS campuses because we may change the model from wall-to-wall to school within a school. Dual enrollment would still be in place for all students. Most high schools would become P-TECH ECHS campuses so all high schools would offer more CTE licenses and certificates while still supporting students who want to attain associate degrees.

II. Meeting Called to Order

Tony Meza, DEIC Vice-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>Gonzalez Elem.</i>	Beatriz	Moreno
<i>Hudson Elem.</i>	Cynthia	Cantu
<i>Lucio MS</i>	Carey-Jo	Alfaro-Sweatt
<i>Morningside MS</i>	Susy	Valdez
<i>Pace ECHS</i>	Anna	Gabbert
<i>Rivera ECHS</i>	Clement R.	Markley
<i>Stell MS</i>	Dina	Chavez
<i>Villa Nueva</i>	Abigail	Amado

Substitutes were present for Breeden Elementary, Porter ECHS, and Sharp Elementary.



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IV. Recommend approval of Minutes

1. Ella Rios, Keller Elementary, made the motion to approve the September 18, 2017 DEIC unofficial minutes with corrections as official and Joanna Rivas from Cromack Elementary seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Mark Munoz, Perez Elementary, made the motion and Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary seconded the motion to approve the October 4, 2017 Special Called Meeting unofficial minutes with corrections as official. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Presentations

1. Dr. Roni Rentfro presented a brief overview of the current BISD Accountability. The district is expecting to be Stage 1 for all of the Performance-based Monitoring Accountability System program areas (Bilingual, CTE, ESSA, and Special Education). No compliance issues have been found for any program areas. She reminded the members that PBMAS is district accountability, but the campus data contribute information that is used to stage the programs. She said the improved performance is due to all of the work teachers have done.

Bertha Peña reminded everyone that this is a big deal and had a site visit a few years ago because of CTE and Bilingual staging. Dr. Rentfro introduced the program representatives for the various programs and the new Curriculum Administrators: Letty Barrientes for Migrant, Mary Tolman for ESSA, Alma Rubio for Bilingual, Dr. Norma Ibarra for secondary curriculum and Dolores Emerson for elementary.

Dr. Rentfro went over the BISD System Safeguards report and noted that all campuses need to review this data. This is the merging of state and federal accountability and the goal is to not have any "Ns" on the report. She reminded campuses that if the campus missed even one of the areas, the campus had to form a Campus Leadership Team (that may be a part of their SBDM) to review their data, determine the areas with the greatest need, set progress goals and write a Targeted Improvement Plan to address the noted gaps and/or low performance areas. She took members through a couple of examples calculating the gaps. For reading, BISD "all" performance was 71%, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged were at the same level. When look at Special Education (35%) so there was a 36 point performance gap and ELLs had a 12 percentage point gaps. She reminded everyone that every child counts.

2. A sign-up sheet was made available for members to sign up to be on the BISD Calendar Committee. Ms. Pena said she needed to make sure there was representatives from elementary, middle and high schools. Is especially important this year with the possibility for bringing in the District of Innovation. Several members noted that they served last year but that the calendar was changed from what was proposed. Ms. Pena said she would follow up but did note that sometimes assessment timelines or other outside situations could change the committee's recommendation.



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3. Dr. Rentfro shared the information that only two thirds of the members had completed the on-line survey to submit their Goal Subcommittee preferences and asked that remaining members please do so as soon as possible.

VI. Action Items

1. Dr. Norma Ibarra-Cantu presented the request for pull-out days for professional development for English teachers from all middle schools representing grades 6, 7, and 8. The session is designed for teachers to review the revised ELA instructional scope and sequence and frameworks. These teachers are to return to their campuses and share the updates with other teachers.

Mark Munoz, Perez Elementary, made the motion and Lisa Evans from Castañeda Elementary seconded the motion to approve the professional development request. Approval was unanimous.

VII. Announcements

Mr. Meza announced the next meeting would be the next regularly scheduled meeting would be November 13, 2017 (PDS# 65933) at 5:30 PM at the BISD Boardroom.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Meza, DEIC Vice-President, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eliseo Garza from Palm Grove Elementary made the motion and Luz Marshall from Martin Elementary seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.