

DEIC Meeting Minutes - August 31, 2015 - WGEC Board Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Dr. Mike Gonzales.

New Business:

■ Election of Officers for 2015-2016

- Dr. Gonzales called for nominations for the facilitator of the DEIC. Don Sandell was nominated for a second term, and he accepted the position.
- Dr. Brenda Duhon called for nominations for the position of secretary of DEIC. Dana LaRue was nominated for a second term, and she accepted.

■ Set 2015-2016 Meeting Dates

- Meeting dates for the upcoming year were discussed. The proposed dates were November 16, 2015; January 18, 2016; and May 16, 2016. Don Sandell called for a vote. Everyone voted in favor of these dates, and the dates were approved. All meetings will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the WGEC Board Room.

■ Catastrophic Sick Leave

- Dr. Gonzales reported that information was sent out regarding catastrophic sick leave. He verified that employees who wish to participate must fill out the form and submit it via email by Friday, September 4. DEIC members will relay this information to our campuses.

■ District Plan

- Last May, the DEIC reviewed changes, but at that time there were components for which we did not have information. The information is now available, and Dr. Duhon pointed to the changes.
 - Our attendance rate goal is 96.2%. Last year, we achieved an attendance rate of 95.98% across the district. Dr. Duhon asked the committee whether we should amend our district goal or leave it as is. Most members felt that we should keep the goal at 96.2%, since it seems to be attainable given our current rate of attendance.
 - We did not have all the needs assessment related to student achievement in May. That information is now available. Dr. Duhon referred to page 8 in our District Improvement Plan, which reflects the new information.
 - The English Language Learners system safeguards that were not met in 2013-2014 were met in 2014-2015. Therefore, the ELL system safeguard strategies were deleted from the district plan.
 - Special education reading and writing system safeguards were not met in 2014-2015. Jeff Kucher explained that they are looking at reviewing our students' disabilities and determining where those students will best be served. The district also plans to offer in-service training on differentiated instruction.

They are also looking at areas of the STARR-A exam and plan to provide students with ample practice on the computer, as well as offering teacher training.

- Dr. Duhon spoke about House Bill 18, which measures how middle schools prepare students for high school, college, and career. The district will be required to track this through PEIMS. We will investigate how to best meet this requirement.
- Various Eduphoria training is required of new staff so the district improvement plan was edited to better reflect this requirement.
- Dr. Duhon also referenced House Bill 2186, which looks at suicide prevention curriculum. Dr. Mary Jane Moore spoke about this, explaining that a new law was recently passed. The education commissioner will roll out a training schedule. Training will probably come in the middle of the school year during spring staff development. The state has listed some possible programs.

■ Staff Development

- Dr. Duhon asked if anyone had heard concerns about Meet the Teacher times. She asked if the committee members thought we should adjust the time to later in the evening to accommodate working parents.
 - Discussion about the topic was held. A member asked if the elementary Meet the Teacher meetings could be held on a Thursday or Friday. Dr. Duhon

explained that secondary master schedules are more difficult to finalize, so that is why elementary Meet the Teacher events are held first. The high school has the Fire-Up Pep Rally on the Thursday night before the first student day, so that night is not a possibility for middle or elementary events. The only way to move the elementary Meet the Teacher nights to later in the week would be to double up like was done years ago.

- The discussion closed with the possibility of holding Meet the Teacher before the first student day for elementary campuses and the high school but after the first student day for the middle school campuses. DEIC members should go back to their campuses and get teacher feedback.

■ 2016-2017 Calendar Waivers

- Dr. Duhon explained the process of applying for waivers from the state with regards to staff development days. PN-GISD's waivers expire this year. Dr. Duhon has learned that now when a district applies for a waiver, it must identify the staff development days to be in lieu of instruction.
- Tanya Davis presented three possible calendar options:
 - No waiver (180 student days/7 staff days)
 - Two-day waiver (178 student days/9 staff days)
 - Three-day waiver (177 student days/10 staff days)

- The committee debated the options. It was pointed out that less staff development means less opportunities for CPE hours for teacher certifications.
- The committee voted for the three-day waiver. Dr. Duhon will start the process of applying for the waiver. If the state denies our request, we will still have time to start the process again with another option. Dr. Duhon will update the DEIC on the progress at the November meeting.

■ Region 5 Conference

- The Region 5 Conference will be held on August 9, 2016. According to possible PN-GISD 2016-2017 calendars, we will not be in session at that time. Therefore, the district will not be able to send everyone to the conference. It may have to be a personal choice. Someone asked if those who chose to attend the conference could use it as a “buy back” day for in-service. Dr. Duhon said that could be looked into as a possibility.

■ Mr. Sandell asked for additional agenda items; there were none.

Mr. Sandell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 P.M.

*The next DEIC meeting will be held at 3:30 P.M. on November 16, 2015 in the WGEC Board Room.