

DEIC Meeting Minutes - May 18, 2015 - WGEC Board Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M. by Mr. Don Sandell.

Members Present: Annette Meier, Darlene Mills, Alex Wells, Ginger LeBlanc Angela Abel, Terri Runte, Paisley Ware, Donna Cole, Andrea Miller, Whitney Elisar, Dona Sandell, Pat Briggs, Dana LaRue, Amber Comeaux, Irene Baize, Adam Anders, and Mike Spencer. Administration: Dr. Mike Gonzales, Dr. Brenda Duhon, Dr. Mary Jane Moore, Tanya Davis, Staci Gary, Jeff Kuchar, Mandie Champagne, Cheryl Hernandez.

Old Business:

- No old business to report

New Business:

■ Salary/Raises

- Dr. Mike Gonzales explained that the School Board meets in July and inquires about raises, but DEIC has not always met in time to voice concerns or ask questions. Dr. Gonzales explained that many things must be considered.
 - The cost of insurance will increase, which will affect decisions made regarding raises.
 - At this time, some new hires do not get benefits; this may have to change, but that would mean cutting back financially elsewhere.
 - PNGISD has added 44 employees (teachers, administrators, etc.) since 2010.

- A committee member pointed out that, from a business perspective, maintaining quality personnel means paying them accordingly, including cost-of-living expenses.
- Another committee member inquired about how frequently a “needs assessment” is done.
 - Cheryl Hernandez explained that principals do this each year. They must decide how to allocate funds (professional development, library, music program, etc.). She pointed out that shifts in finance occur mostly due to student population shifts, but some shifts occur because of state legislation changes. For example, Special Education has changed quite a bit in the last 20 years, but there is not always enough money to handle all the changes. The state may decide to make changes, but the state does not always provide the finances to make sure these changes take place; that is left to the districts.
- Mrs. Hernandez explained that we are currently operating on a \$2.5 million deficit. There is a possibility that we will have to cut costs again as we did a few years ago.
 - PNGISD spends \$1.3 million on electricity.
 - PNGISD spends \$1.2 million on property insurance.
 - PNGISD currently has \$20 million in the FUND Balance. Board Policy dictates that we keep at least three months expenses in the FUND Balance at all times, in case of unexpected developments.
 - Moody’s Rating Agency wants us to have half of what our largest tax payer pays (which is about \$20 million).

- PNGISD is the largest employer in the area (excluding the large refineries).
- Dr. Gonzales requested that we direct any questions/concerns to Mr. Sandell, who will collect them and have them ready to submit to the Board.

■ Curriculum System

- Dr. Brenda Duhon explained the TEKS Resource System currently costs the district about \$25,000 per year. PNGISD uses the TEKS Resource System as a resource only (it has never been mandatory). Dr. Duhon talked to Lisa Yoes about using the online resources but making our own assessments.
 - Mrs. Yoes explained that TEKS Resource System was originally put online as a parent tool. Copyright issues/ethics issues must be considered.
- Dr. Duhon proposed continuing the use of the TEKS Resource System as a resource for teachers. Its use will be re-evaluated next year, at which time a viable option may be presented. Dr. Duhon opened the issue up to DEIC for discussion.
 - A committee member asked if we could poll teachers regarding their use of the TEKS Resource System. Dr. Duhon explained that campus principals provided information about the use of the system at their campuses with teachers. The district will look closely at the TEKS Resource System for using in 8th grade social studies since those scores were low last year.
 - If we give up the TEKS Resource System, we would have to replace it with something else. It could mean asking

teachers to write curriculum over the summer months, but this would require payment for those teachers.

- A committee member expressed concern over possible TEA audits of curriculum systems. Without something to formally replace it, we should be cautious.
- DEIC proposed to continue the use of the TEKS Resource System for another year as a supplementary resource for teachers as needed. DEIC will revisit this issue in one year.
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment & District Improvement Plan
 - Dr. Duhon reviewed the information and made notes for DEIC to review.
 - Dr. Duhon added a component for Migrant Shared Serves information in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
 - As soon as attendance data is available, that will be added to the plan.
 - PLCs training will be provided for principals.
 - Dr. Duhon added teacher years of experience and teacher highest degree held information from TAPR reports.
 - Special Education increased to 9% -- that information has been added to Needs Assessment.
 - PreK and PPCD are moving back to WGEC. A new performance objective was added to the district plan.
 - A performance objective was added regarding the Program Support position.
 - *Empowering Writers* staff development training was added as a strategy.
 - Information was added regarding TSI testing for sophomores

- Updated Family/Community survey results have been added.
- The logo art contest was implemented.
- Technology - we implemented BYOD; thus, the technology department is now monitoring bandwidth on a daily bases instead of monthly.
- Technology - summer technology academies have been added.
- At this time, DEIC broke into groups led by coordinators to discuss the District Improvement Plan. Each group reviewed and discussed a section of the plan.

■ Survey

- The survey was completed individually.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dana LaRue (5-19-15)