

## DEIC Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2014 - WGEC Board Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 P.M. by Mr. Don Sandell. Members in Attendance: Julie Gauthier, Don Sandell, Darlene Mills, Charles Dodson, Angela Abel, Paisley Ware, Donna Cole, Pat Briggs, Dana LaRue, Ginger LeBlanc, Terri Runte, Amber Comeaux, Irene Baize, Adam Anders.

Administrators in Attendance: Dr. Brenda Duhon, Dr. Mary Jane Moore, Tanya Davis, Staci Gary, Jeff Kuchar, Mandie Champagne.

Old Business:

- No old business to report

New Business:

- Site-Based Decision Making Training
  - Mr. Don Sandell reviewed DEIC training handout with the committee. He pointed out that the District Management Committee is composed of classroom teachers (2/3) as well as other campus and district level staff members (1/3). In addition to these members, parents, community members, and business representatives also serve on the committee in an advisory capacity.
- System Safeguards
  - Dr. Brenda Duhon explained “system safeguards” in the new accountability system.
- Our Special Education Department had to address their numbers of students taking the STAAR-M test since we exceeded the 2% federal maximum allotment.
- PBMAS
  - PBMAS reporting also indicated that the number of students who are not being served in a “least restrictive environment” was too high. The areas of concern are primarily at the middle school and high school levels.

- Strategies to address these Special Education issues were identified and presented to DEIC as an addition to the District Education Improvement Plan.
- Calendar 2015-2016
  - Ms. Staci Gary presented information regarding a calendar for the 2015-2016 school year.
    - She reminded the committee that at the last meeting, members requested a calendar similar to the current calendar.
    - According to the draft, the first student day would be August 24, 2015. Elementary Conferences would again be scheduled in October and February, with secondary campuses using two of the three early release days for inservice and staff development. Two Bad Weather Days have been included (February 15 and April 29). Staff development days will include nine days before students return to school (August 11-21). Two additional Staff Development Days have been included (February 15 and April 29). The last student day would be May 26, and the last staff day would be May 27.
    - A question was raised about the end of school. In the past, the end dates have made summer school preparation difficult. Ms. Gary explained that it has been determined that summer school will start one week later for elementary and middle school (not high school), alleviating this problem. Elementary and middle school summer school will also be held Monday-Friday, not Monday-Thursday. This proposal will go before the Board in December.
    - A question was raised concerning inservice. Many teachers have requested more inservice days scattered throughout the school year instead of having them mostly at the beginning of the year. Dr. Duhon explained that to do so would mean the school year would not end until June.
  - A vote was held to determine whether the proposed calendar should go before the Board or continue development with through a calendar

subcommittee. All DEIC members voted in favor of the proposed calendar; none were opposed.

- Items to be finalized: (1) Spring Break (waiting to hear from Lamar) and (2) whether or not we have another early release at the end of the first semester.

■ City of Port Neches Update - Adam Anders

- Adam Anders, Port Neches City Councilman, provided an update on the city of Port Neches.
  - An upcoming Port Neches Avenue project which will include road repair, as well as other improvements such as the addition of lighting, brick crosswalks, etc. The city received a grant to defray project costs. Mr. Anders said the business owners on Port Neches Avenue have been involved in the process.
  - The Huntsman \$140 million expansion which will increase our tax base.
  - The city is working to sell some land. This includes 5 acres behind Woodcrest Elementary, a corner lot on Merriman and Ridgewood, and 60 acres (newly zoned) by the Neches River.
  - The Wheelhouse Restaurant has been a boost to the city's economy as follows: \$1.1 million was invested and a \$50,000 remodel has already been done. There are 70-75 employees (mostly local) making the monthly payroll \$70,000-\$75,000. In addition, 60%--75% of the revenue is food while the remaining 30-35% is alcohol. More money has been generated from this property in the past seven months than in the past fifteen years. In 2015, the city can apply for a Texas Land Office grant that would allow for the removal of metal debris.

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

Mr. Sandell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 P.M.; the meeting was adjourned.

\*The next DEIC meeting will be held at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2015 in the WGEC Board Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dana LaRue (11-19-14)