

Minutes

District Advisory Committee Meeting

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Thursday, March 22nd at the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center in the Board Auditorium. The following members attended: Carla Barnes, Frank “Drew” Bissell, Robin Bissell, Paulette Bogert, Bernadette Cooper, Andrew Dewey, Reba Goodman, Joe Gutierrez, Earl Jimmison, John Lengers, Lindsey Olsen, Anthony Madry, Brent McCowan, Marie Pousson, Jo A Reed, Lillian Villarreal. Also in attendance: Terry B. Grier, Chip Zullinger, Michelle Pola, Nancy Gregory, Zoe Stem-Calderon, Lance Menster, and Ildalia T., Secretary.

Chip Zullinger called the meeting to order at 4:42PM. Terry B. Grier, ED.D., Superintendent of Schools, welcomed and thanked the DAC members for their invaluable participation and service in education.

Dr. Grier, said, it has been a tough year for the district due to necessary budget cuts. Unfortunately, there are 837 fewer teachers this year than a year ago. Grier said to balance the budget the district will spend \$35 – \$40 million dollars this year, and, he said that the district may be faced with the same deficit issue next year. Grier said that the district is awaiting decision from the Commissioner of Education, Robert Scott, on the annexation of North Forest. In addition, he said, in regard to the 2007 bond all new schools are completed as well as 50% of our schools have been renovated on time and under budget. He mentioned the possibility of a School Bond Referendum in November, and if that happened, he said, the primary focus will be on High schools. Grier turned to DAC members for questions or comments.

- A member said there have been many concerns and comments from the community on the potential change in class start and end time as well as the selection process on Elementary schools start and end times.

Dr. Grier said that because of many budget cuts, it is believed that the district can save \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars by having standard start and end times and he gave several examples on how that would work. He also said that the selection process on “half/half” start and end times for Elementary schools will come from input from principals, teachers, parents, as well as community meetings, surveys, and a random lottery, if needed.

Curriculum & Assessment Institute – 2012 Summer Plan

Lance Menster, Senior Manager, Professional Development, said, there are efforts underway aimed to reach 3000 pre-k through 12th grade teachers at the upcoming summer institute in July. He referenced the 5 main components to this effort: 4 day institute, optional, compensation of \$125 daily for a stipend of \$500 for teachers who attend the institute, 1st institute the week of July 23, and an additional institute the week of July 30th. The institute is designed as follows:

- Logistics – Group same subject teachers that fall within the same clusters of schools
- Clear understanding, awareness, and capacity of the district’s written curriculum
- Standards driven in terms of concept
- Embed literacy routine and strategies
- Rethink approach to design and create a quality and effective lesson plan
- Focus on time and space, prepare for the first 6 to 9 weeks of curriculum; particularly, the hardest to learn standards, and target core classes (and end of year classes)
- Hands on experience: learn and experience content

Use tools available to create district-level guided lesson assessments
English language learners
Special education students
GT students
HISD CR case studies
Ongoing 1 day CR training for teachers who struggle with management

Member Feedback

- Who will attend the institute – how will the selection process work?

Menster said the hope is to have representation from all campuses and to recruit teachers from high priority campuses (it will not be *first come first serve*). The Professional Development Team is planning a marketing recruiting event by mid-April.

- A member inquired on last year's summer school results in which highly effective teachers were recruited and were paid a different salary, he asked, how did that work?

Michele Pola said she will look into the inquiry and get back to the member.

- A member recommended to clearly communicate that *attendance is not mandated and a teacher who is unable to attend because of prior summer vacation plans should not be held accountable or penalized*. Another member expressed concern for campuses in which most of the staff need the training but all cannot attend.

Menster said the highly needed schools will be monitored to ensure there is representation from those campuses; and, he said, the institute will be offered via an online training module to ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to practice the institute training.

- Another member raised a concern that benchmark scores are low throughout the school year and do not match up with TAKS results. She said tests are not written correctly and said that data should drive instruction. Another member recommended the training include a lesson on how to write a good assessment.

Menster said the training will be a guide on how to open a lesson, how to *"do now"*, and how to share effective lesson plans with other teachers. He encouraged members to view the questions distributed (at the meeting), try the questions, share the questions with other teachers, and forward feedback to him via email imenster@houstonisd.org.

- A member asked, is the intent of this training for all HISD campuses to utilize and implement this curriculum or will principals (still) choose the curriculum they decide for their campuses?

Michele Pola, said, the intent is for all campuses to **implement the same curriculum**, in the same sequence, and, for every student to meet certain expectations by a certain point. She said the superintendent's intent is to **guaranty consistent quality education to every child regardless of where a child lives**. The focus is on *standards* not *program*.

District Improvement Plan (DIP) Update

The DAC Sub Committee members gave an overview of the March 20th meeting.

- Develop a school culture survey for teachers, principals, parents, and students – stress principal and teacher relationship and its impact on treating student's needs
- Encouraged input on survey from DAC
- End result will be good for the students
- Logistics – long term project – IB does a good job on teaching the child the holistic approach
- Implement a culture of trust through action

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:20 PM.

Follow-Ups

What	Who	When
A member inquired on last year's summer school results in which highly effective teachers were recruited and were paid a different salary, he asked, how did that work?	Michele Pola	April 19
A member recommended to clearly communicate that <i>attendance is not mandated.....</i>	Lance Menster	ASAP
.....encouraged members to view the questions distributed (at the meeting), try the questions, share the questions with other teachers, and forward feedback to him via email lmenster@houstonisd.org .	DAC members	ASAP