

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 19 and 26, 2011

Members Present: Natalie Abrameit, Todd Berry, Frank Bissell, Sharon Breedlove, Bernadette Cooper, Andrew Dewey, Nimfa Gallardo, Reba Goodman, Andrea Holberg, Earl Jimmison, Rhonda Jones, John Lengers, Valerie Manby, Brent McCowan, and Marie Pousson.

Chip Zullinger opened the meeting at 3:35 p.m. and summarized the school waiver process; a school decides which waivers they want, an election is held (approved by 2/3 vote from the faculty), they go to the School Improvement Officers (SIO) and the Chief School Officer (CSO) for review and approval, then they're sent to the HISD school board for approval before they are submitted to TEA for final approval. There are provisions in state and local policy to remove roadblocks for a better education. Waivers give teachers and staff a voice in the district to make things better for students and schools. He stated that the waivers were due May 13th and are being reviewed and analyzed for approval by the Chief School Officers and the School Improvement Officers.

There will be five early dismissal days next year for all schools. This will be a huge savings in transportation. Schools will be able to decide which of the five days will be used for parent involvement or professional development.

There are 32 general waivers and only six to seven are used by most schools. This suggests that it's a campus-based decision. The five most popular waivers are:

1. Consolidation of the Faculty Advisory Committee with the Shared Decision Making Committee;
2. Parent Advisory Committee to replace the PTA/PTO;
3. Promotion standards for middle schools;
4. Altered school days; and
5. Attendance reporting on test days for high schools.

An agenda item for waivers will be submitted to the Board in June.

Chip reiterated the importance of the District Advisory Committee and the role it plays in the district.

Q: Can the meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. next year? It's hard for us to get here by 3:30 p.m.

A: This will certainly be considered because this committee needs to be accommodated.

Appraisal System for School Leaders – Bill Horwath/Nicole Johnson/Don Hilber

Bill told the committee about the new appraisal system for school leaders which was based on McRell. He stated the importance of capturing information for this rubric before it goes to the Board to be implemented next school year. This appraisal system will be used for principals, assistant principals, and Deans of Instruction. This will be used on about 900 administrators.

Bill divided the group into two groups to discuss the rubrics on the measures of student learning and to discuss the process. He mentioned that a field test has been done on the rubric in 15 schools. Focus groups on student learning have been held, surveys were sent to principals, instructing them to include SDMC feedback, he met with the Principals' Ad Hoc Committee last week and will meet with all the principals in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and another meeting has been scheduled for May 26th at 4:30 p.m. to continue this discussion.