



Walnut Bend Elementary School

SDMC Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020

The meeting began at 3:15 pm. Those present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

The committee reviewed the School Improvement Plan updates and the SMART Goals. The staff and committee both support these initiatives.

Mrs. Dahlquist updated the committee on the budget. Covid-19 precautions have influenced the transportation availability from HISD and we are not a school hub for enrollment, even though we are under enrolled. We have not made projection yet, but students are still enrolling. Class sizes will be closely monitored to keep waivers to a minimum, and to keep class sizes reasonable in the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently we have 6 waivers of the 15 we are allotted.

School is opening in person next week. Classes are being kept to 15 or below and instructions will be through the hybrid model. Rooms have been configured and sanitation supplies are on campus. Wellness team is established and trained for arrival.

Safety Update: Fire drills will need to be adjusted to allow for physical distancing, but still must continue as required by law. Ensure that emergency bags are current and have class lists for classes that could have a drill from your classroom.

New business: Grading and report cards. Mr. Lopez brought up grading procedures and the need for consistency and consensus around use of zeros in the grade book. There was concern among teachers that the zeros for work not completed will impact their ability to pass the grade from this point forward and will make it nearly impossible. Other teachers were in favor of holding students accountable for the grades they have earned based on the many opportunities they have had and the flexibility teachers have shown. The final consensus was to allow grace during the pandemic as many obstacles have been in the way of students performing their best work. The committee drafted a statement that was officially proposed by Mr. Lopez and passed by a slim margin. The statement below was passed along to the teachers through Teams.

It is advised that teachers override a final average that is less than 50% so that it reflects a final average of 50% for the grading periods in the first semester of 2020. This still reflects a failing grade, but allows for students to have future passing grades with the opportunity to still pass for the school year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.