



## Superintendent's Public Engagement Committee

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Superintendent's Large Conference Room

### **Attendees:**

Terry Grier, Aggie Alvez, Melinda Garrett, Michele Pola, Christina Masick, Leonard Barksdale, Beth Brown, Dale Davidson, Laura Grobowsky, Arva Howard, David Jaroszewski, Earl Jimmison, Robin Owens, Laura Richardson, Leslie Smith

### **◆ Update and Discussion:**

#### **Budget Update and Discussion**

A budget update was provided by Melinda Garrett. The district is anticipating higher losses; estimated at \$171 million. The basic per child allotment formula and weighting contributes to HISD's larger impact than compared to other districts. The district is still working to analyze its capped losses and implications.

A handout was distributed on the budget process. Calculations are based on property wealth and therefore negatively impact our district since HISD is considered a "property wealthy" district. State law requires the district to adopt a budget on June 30<sup>th</sup> and it is anticipated that a supplemental adoption would be brought forward based on the final legislature.

As part of the district's zero-based budgeting process, the central office budget cuts will be presented to the board on April 7<sup>th</sup> requesting the elimination of 221 positions from the general fund and 56 from grant funds that translates to an overall reduction of 11% of central office. Additional recommendations include reducing stipends, recalculating maintenance of efforts, reducing and/or eliminating contractual services in an effort to do more with less.

The district is investigating all options including working with the city on drainage issues. As part of the March 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the School Resource Guide established the Per Unit Allocation (PUA) and Unique PUA.

The district's budget work continues as there is a need to reduce by an additional \$65 million. The administration will present a matrix of programs for consideration to the board as well as a school and student impact analysis. The group asked how tax rate changes would impact the budget. Melinda Garret stated that a \$0.01 tax increase equates to an increase of \$9 million. Currently, the district has the lowest tax rate in Harris County.

#### **Special Education**

A reorganization occurred within the Special Education department. The result is that the Dyslexia group is now part of the Special Education department. The recent Special Education report concluding that the district is over/under identifying in different student groups was posted to the HISD website. The reorganization will drive improvements in the identification process.

#### **Small School Closures**

The district is conducting community meetings on small school closures. Schools are being evaluated when their enrollment falls under 500 for elementary, 750 for middle and 1,000 for high schools. Budget cuts will eliminate the education opportunities and services for children in small schools.

\*During the 4/11 BOE agenda review, it was determined to examine all elementary school enrollments less than 400 and middle schools with less than 500 students. Administration will return to the Board of Education with recommendations.

The district is preparing to address the magnet program as announced in March.. P.E.C. members interested in the process should contact Michele Pola. The goal is to have a recommendation for the Board to include a magnet funding formula and criteria for implementation in the 2012-2013 school year.

◆ **Communication Update and Discussion:**

The district has implemented many initiatives behind the scenes. The Communications Division recently made available a principal's resource page and provided communications training to aspiring principals to increase capacity since parents primarily receive information from their school administration. The district redesigned the main webpage and work continues on other areas of the website. Other areas of work include school website redesign, community meetings, outreach in the Hispanic and African America communities, Spanish "tweets", a Government Relations Twitter feed, engaging Univision, and launching a weekly Spanish news program. The group raised questions on the market penetration for HISD TV. Aggie Alvez mentioned that due to cost constraints HISD does not subscribe to Nielsens ratings so the district is leveraging online distribution as well as other vehicles where statistics are available. The group suggested: Magic 102 (Sundays), KTSU (Sunday evenings), Marcus Davis' show, and 92.1 (morning show).

The district continues to address misinformation. Committee members were encouraged to contact Michele Pola or other contacts when questions arise within other networks.

All committee members were asked to complete the upcoming communications survey.

◆ **Follow-up Items**

The district will provide budget related [talking points and tax rate comparison](#).

The district will provide a link to the [Special Education report](#).

The district will provide information on Community Meetings

Campus	Date	Time	Location
Stevenson	Wednesday, April 20	5:30—7:00 p.m.	Stevenson

The district will provide the link to the Communication Survey:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DistrictwideCommunications>

◆ **Next Meeting(s):**

Wed., June 22, 2011

◆ **Contact:**

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