



Superintendent's Public Engagement Committee

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Superintendent's Large Conference Room

Attendees:

Terry Grier, Aggie Alvez, Melinda Garrett, Michele Pola, Christina Masick, Laura Grobowsky, Earl Jimmison, Judy Long, Laura Richardson, Beth Brown, Arva Howard, Robin Owens, Martin Cominsky, Dale Davidson

◆ Update and Discussion:

Principal Selection

The group gave feedback on the principal selection process and overall the comments were positive. Some raised concerns over the SDMC representation. Dr. Grier described the Principal Selection process and the practice in the district to hold our internal leadership accountable for that principal's success. When exit interviews were conducted on principals leaving the district the feedback received was that there was a concern being held accountable. Dr. Grier also commented that the district is experiencing challenges attracting principals because candidates are uncomfortable with performance contracts and have an increased sense of comfort in their current position. Also, Dr. Grier talked about a partnership with Rice University to teach principals how to market schools.

The group suggested that the district conduct a financial review of schools. The concerns were that principals can't be experts in academics and operational aspects. The group felt strongly that principals in the district need to understand the business of education.

Heard in the Communities

The group commented that they had heard that AP teachers were leaving the district. Dr. Grier provided an update during the meeting that HR reviewed the number of AP teachers leaving and didn't notice any unusual trends compared to prior years.

Concerns were raised that schools were not consistently utilizing their school health advisory group (SHAC). Dr. Pola committed to providing information on the district's integration of health and wellness into the district's upcoming strategic direction report.

Dr. Pola offered district support and attendance at community events and engagement activities. She requested the group contact her office with dates and time.

Magnet Update

A representative requested an update on the magnet program and next steps. Dr. Grier communicated that the budget has taken precedent. Dr. Pola explained that through the review process it was brought to the attention of administration that district oversight was missing with respect to following existing regulations. The group requested additional meetings to participate conversations of the existing magnet program and revisions to the regulation. As requested by the committee, Dr. Pola will send meeting invitations for discussion around existing magnet documents and the administration's draft magnet proposal from March 2011.

Questions were raised about the district's literacy program proposal and Dr. Pola offered to share with the committee a review report that was conducted previously on the HISD K-3 literacy program that included interviews with principals, teachers, and community members.

◆ **Follow-up Items**

The district will provide information on the turnover rate of principal as well as the accountability of the schools from where the principals left.

The district will provide documents on the district's magnet program (regulation, guidelines and draft proposal from March 2011).

◆ **Next Meeting(s):**

The group will be solicited to conduct two summer meetings to discuss the magnet documents and revisions for the regulation.

- Wed., October 19, 2011 – 8:30 a.m.
- Wed., January 18, 2012 – 8:30 a.m.
- Wed., April 18, 2012 – 8:30 a.m.
- Wed., July 18, 2012 – 8:30 a.m.

◆ **Contact:**

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