



Superintendent's Public Engagement Committee

Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Superintendent's Large Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

◆ Welcome:

○ Introductions

The group introduced themselves and shared accolades and challenges over the past year.

Accolades included the graduation rate at an all-time high and lowest dropout rate in history. Positive feedback was given on the recently held national Parents for Public Schools conference.

The group offered that more work is needed to increase dialogue, specifically an avenue for complaints or feedback, as well as an additional focus on non-core/elective curriculum. The group recommended publically recognizing individuals that receive significant awards and suggestions included conducting press conferences. Specific school issues were raised in addition to concerns with the GT Task Force, specifically identifying appropriate leadership, and the need to include financial management as a professional development topic for principals.

◆ Update and Discussion:

Dr. Grier recounted his experience visiting the White House to speak about technology in the education industry. Dr. Grier commented that implementing student-centric technology requires student literacy skills. He also updated the group on the Community Conversations held to date and concerns raised by the community on the transition from TAKS to STAAR.

Dr. Pola informed the group that magnet was a proposed topic for the upcoming Board Workshop on November 3rd. The group had extended discussion on various magnet scenarios and the impact of school choice. Dr. Grier spoke about the need to move forward on a magnet policy and regulations before taking actions. The group raised questions about North Forest and Dr. Grier responded that the district was awaiting a state-level decision and communication. The district is concerned that the timing of a decision could become a significant issue for the district. Currently, there are about 300 North Forest students in the district through the out-of-district transfer process.

◆ Conclusion:

It was recognized that the group membership would change coinciding with board elections.

○ Follow up

- Dr. Pola to send the group information on TBEC and STAAR/EOC
- Dr. Thomas and Mary Nesbitt to meet on curriculum alignment
- Dr. Pola to send out-of-district transfer policy
- Dr. Pola to send Kleinberg report

◆ Next Meeting(s):

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