

**Districtwide Educational Improvement Council Meeting  
September 24, 2007**

The Districtwide Educational Improvement Council met on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:15 p.m. at the EDC.

PRESENT:	Vivian Baker	Dr. Gina Jensen	Carrie Ross
	Eric Banfield	Carrie Jones	Tonya Sallee
	Stacy Bostick	Susan Kincannon	Kim Sodek
	Amanda Curylo	Michael Lawson	Jenna Sprott
	Phoebe Duggan	Janet Leigh	Kim Stephens
	Kathy Flanigan	Liz Marr	Sandra Velo
	Karen Fruehan	David Martin	Donna Ward
	Marty Gober	Donya McNeese	Emily Watkins
	Micki Greeson	Scott Moger	Denise Whitley
	Donna Horak	Jacque Ramba	Paul Willie

ABSENT:	Jaci Duffina	Terry Jackson	Amee Tuggle
	Kelly Goldston	Rita Motl	Clint York
	Kim Hardin	Joe Peterka	
	MaryAnn Huckabee	Chris Poulter	

Susan Kincannon, Deputy Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each one to introduce themselves.

**COMMITTEE TRAINING: PURPOSE, ROLES, AND REQUIREMENTS OF COMMITTEE**

Susan Kincannon reviewed the purpose, roles, and requirements of the district-level committee using a PowerPoint presentation. Hand-outs were provided to each member. The committee is composed of a minimum of eighteen members. Two-thirds of the professionals on the committee must be classroom teachers. Parents, community members, and business members also serve. In an effort to solicit more input, representatives from each campus PTA have been invited. The main purpose of the committee is to provide input in order to improve the educational achievement for all students. The committee is also charged with approving incentive pay plans and staff development at the district level.

**SUMMER STAFF DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Darrell Becker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, gave an update on summer staff development sessions. He showed the committee the catalog that was approved by DWEIC and went out to all employees in April. Teachers are able to register for professional development sessions online and can log in to see their training records. Highlighted sessions of the summer were in the areas of GT, special education, discipline management, technology, and the District's Vertical Alignment activities.

**APPROVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR 2007-2008**

Hand-outs were provided outlining the BISD Districtwide Staff Development Plan for 2007-2008. Darrell Becker reviewed training dates that have already taken place and dates of future sessions. August 21<sup>st</sup> was the first Professional Collaboration session for the school year. The sessions will continue throughout the year. Professional Collaboration sessions emerged from our former partnership with the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas. Mr. Becker informed the committee that the District has now developed the capacity to continue the training

started by the Charles A. Dana Center by using District facilitators and instructional teachers. Teachers are divided into collaboration sessions by subject area and work on improving instruction. Debby Green, consultant from Region 12 Educational Service Center, comes to the District and facilitates social studies training with grades 6-12 teachers.

Foundations/CHAMPS is a new districtwide approach to discipline management that is being implemented this year in all elementary schools, Belton Middle School, and Transportation.

Jenna Sprott, teacher representative, asked what teachers do if there is not a session for them. Mr. Becker responded that few teachers don't have a session to attend. However, this year additional opportunities/sessions are being brought in for those that don't fall into one of the collaboration sessions. Mrs. Kincannon said additional professional development is going on on campuses with principals and facilitators. Dr. Baker, Superintendent, said the overall goal of the collaboration sessions is to bring coherence to the District.

Jacque Ramba, parent representative, asked if teachers are required to attend a certain number of hours of training. Mrs. Kincannon said that it depends on the type of certificate teachers have. The newer teachers are required to have 150 hours every 5 years. Trainings held in the District count towards those hours.

Janet Leigh, teacher representative, told the committee that the trainings are District mandated. Teachers don't get to pick and choose their sessions on these days. She said she is excited because now everyone is on board with the collaboration sessions. Paul Willie, teacher representative, said there are also more administrators attending the collaboration sessions and that helps to make a good team.

A motion to approve the 2007-2008 Staff Development Plan was made by Jenna Sprott and seconded by Scott Moger. All were in favor.

### **OVERVIEW OF STAR GRANT**

Brent Harris, Director of Technology, informed the committee that the District received a STAR grant this summer for approximately \$484, 000. The grant will provide professional development to teachers in the area of technology. The District did not originally qualify for the grant based on student population, but there was an option to collaborate with another district who met the poverty level criteria. BISD has partnered with Rosebud-Lott ISD because they did qualify and have established a relationship with Rosebud-Lott in the area of curriculum as they purchased the District's scope and sequence documents. A portion of the grant funds will go to Rosebud-Lott ISD to help catch them up in technology. BISD is mentoring them. There are several trainings scheduled, and teachers from Rosebud-Lott also ISD will also attend. There are also trainings for administrators. Mrs. Kincannon told the committee that we have Technology Application standards in our curriculum and students are learning them through core content areas in grades K-8. Mr. Harris said Technology Application TEKS are no longer considered enrichment, but are now required by the State. Mrs. Kincannon added that we are one of few districts that already have this in place. Mr. Harris said that by the end of the grant, teachers can submit lessons they have created and should be able to receive an additional certification.

Janet Leigh asked why teachers in the literacy groups were not receiving the technology training. Mr. Harris said it was due to the number of staff. The plan is to start with several groups and expand throughout the next few years. Janet told the committee that in her training on September 24<sup>th</sup>, teachers learned how to make a PowerPoint presentation and would be required to have their students make a presentation. She said it was very exciting for our students to be able to do this.

David Martin, teacher representative, asked if common lessons could be put on DVDs and made available to substitute teachers so that students could see teachers actually teaching and keep the instruction in place while the teacher is out of the classroom. Mr. Harris said that was a good idea. Dr. Baker added that a professional conference she attended last year used podcasting to make the sessions available to participants after the session.

### **QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

Carrie Ross, parent representative, asked about the stability of BISD. She said they had just moved from another district where there where there had been superintendent changes. Dr. Baker said the goal is to train leaders to carry on the work of the District when the leader changes. She explained that we have a very stable school Board, with not much turnover. She said the philosophy of the District is to have a cohesive team because you never know what's going to happen.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2007, at 4:15 p.m.

With there being no further comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dorothy Zacha.