

EPAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2014
DSC Conference Rooms C&D
4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:32 p.m.

Members Present:

Angelica Soto	Patricia Ochoa	Ana Muñoz	Elizabeth Ponce Lugo
Kimberly Padilla	Kimberly Holt	Kathy Painter	Monique Garza
Oscar Gonzalez	Adriana Murillo	Lorena Martinez	Mohammad Shirazi
Efren Navarro	Olga Terrazas	Ruth Harris	Blanca Topete
Dulce Aleman-Seanez	Lori Ann Alt	Maria Belinda Arnold	Dr. Magdalena Aguilar
Mayte Marquez	Annette Gonzalez	Sherry Lewis	Angelica Herrera
Jessica Ferando	Ernesto Espinoza	Josefina Mendoza	Paul Harrington
Conception Gonzalez	Armando Morales	Angelica Zubia	Darren Cole
Antonio Rosales	Cynthia Herrera	Stephen Fernandez	Neysa Hardin
Gerardo Morales	Sonia Schulte	Brandon Rios	Torita Hansby
Denise Triolo	Liz Herrera	Isela Peña	
Gina Panfile	Julietta Arredondo	Dianna Rios	

Cabinet/Staff: Brenda Chacon, *Interim Assistant Superintendent - Elementary Education*; Dr. Cynthia Lopez, *Assistant Superintendent - Secondary Education*; Patrick O'Neill, *Assistant Superintendent - Administrative Services*; Rebecca O'Neill, *Assistant Superintendent - Elementary Education*; Tom Eyeington, *Chief Operations Officer - District Operations*; Tony Reza, *Chief Financial Officer - Financial Services*; Dr. Maria G. Arias, *Director - State and Federal Programs*; Jennifer Davila, *Director - Bilingual / ESL Education*; Daniel Escobar, *Chief Communications Officer - Public Relations*; Lisa Noe, *Director - Special Education*; Hector Reyna, *Director - Technology Services*; George Thomas, *Director - Career and Technical Education*; Luis Vega, *Chief - Police Services*; Fernie Vasquez, *Assistant Director - State and Federal Programs*; Tammi Mackeben, *Coordinator - Guidance and Counseling*; Miguel Moreno, *Coordinator - Instructional Technology*; Rosario Rojas, *Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator - Advanced Academics*; Albert Aragon, *Officer - Police Services*; Jennifer Jones, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*; Oscar Leza, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*; Desiree Valdivia, *State Compensatory Education Specialist - State and Federal Programs*

I. Welcome - Mr. Paul Harrington and Mr. Patrick O'Neill

Mr. Harrington opened the meeting and welcomed members. He stated that this was an important time of the year for the District and briefly went over the items on the agenda. He called upon Mr. O'Neill, who also welcomed members and encouraged their participation.

II. Approval of EPAC Minutes - Mr. Paul Harrington

Mr. Harrington asked members to approve the minutes for the EPAC meeting held on November 21st, 2013. The minutes were unanimously approved. He then reminded members of the importance of the Campus Improvement Plan Formative Evaluation and that it was due on January 31st, 2014.

III. SIT Committee Issues – Mr. Paul Harrington

Mr. Harrington asked members to share any issues and or questions expressed by their respective SIT committees.



The EPAC member from Benito Martinez Elementary asked whether both teachers that are team-teaching in a Bilingual Education class must be Bilingual certified in order to participate. The response from Ms. Jennifer Davila was yes --- for Pre-K to 5th grade settings, both teachers must be certified.

The EPAC member from Ensor Middle School asked about emails from Read 180 that the campus has been receiving about usage of the system and was told that any issues should be directed to Dr. Magdalena Aguilar.

The EPAC member from Options High School stated that they had lost their School Resource Officer (SRO) and inquired whether another would be assigned to them. The response was that it was up to the Human Resources Department to finalize that issue.

An EPAC member asked about parents using computers at campuses and if accounts could be issued to them to make this possible. Mr. Hector Reyna responded that this was possible and that parents would be issued temporary accounts.

The EPAC member from Bill Sybert School stated that there are problems with benchmark training, and that benchmark testing interferes with teaching. Mr. Harrington responded that benchmark tests are a good measure for knowing how students will perform on actual state assessments and that they help prepare students for the state testing procedures. Mr. O'Neill stated that any questions or concerns regarding this could be directed to Mr. Anthony Fraga, Chief Academic Officer.

IV. 2014-2015 SISD Calendar – Ms. Brenda Chacon and Ms. Rebecca O'Neill

Ms. Brenda Chacon spoke to members regarding a draft of the 2014-2015 calendar, explaining the various items that appear on it. She noted that, unlike last year, teaching would continue until December 19th and that no flex day options would be included. Staff development opportunities would still occur at the beginning of the year but would not include a holiday exchange type option. Teacher calendar days would remain 187. EPAC members expressed concern with early-dismissal days, during which students attend for only half-day and campuses hold staff development for teachers during the second half. Members suggested that full-day trainings would prove more beneficial for teachers due to the fact that the logistical challenges of dismissing students half-day hinder the time available for staff development. Ms. Chacon stated that she would share the concerns with the Academic Services Department and Mr. Anthony Fraga. EPAC members, as well as Mr. Harrington, agreed that it would be beneficial to bring up these items at SIT committee meetings.

V. District Improvement Plan Formative Evaluation – Dr. Maria G. Arias

Dr. Arias shared with members about the DIP Formative Evaluation and introduced the departments that contributed to it. She told members that the Formative Evaluation document represents the reflection process that must occur to measure the effectiveness of the actions that improvement plans dictate --- all for the enhancement of student academic performance. She stated that SIT members should be involved in the development of their campus plans. EPAC members made suggestions about district plan strategies 1.4.12 and 1.6.1. Dr. Arias then asked members to provide suggestions, feedback, and or questions about the Formative Evaluation via a response sheet, to be turned in before leaving. Members were given 10 minutes to write their remarks.

VI. Closing – Mr. Paul Harrington

Mr. Harrington reminded members about sharing EPAC meeting occurrences at their SIT committee meetings. He emphasized the importance of participating in the development of their campus improvement plans and closed the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

