

# EPAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2014  
DSC Conference Rooms C&D  
4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:33 p.m.

## Members Present:

Angelica Soto	Gina Panfile	Christine Llewelyn	Dianna Rios
Kimberly Padilla	Patricia Ochoa	Lorena Martinez	Elizabeth Ponce Lugo
Violet Chavez	Kimberly Holt	Ruth Harris	Monique Garza
Oscar Gonzalez	Herlinda Johnston	Melissa Piña	Mohammad Shirazi
Efren Navarro	Olga Terrazas	Maria Belinda Arnold	Dr. Magdalena Aguilar
Dulce Aleman-Seanez	Lori Ann Alt	Josefina Mendoza	Angelica Herrera
Mayte Marquez	Armando Morales	Angelica Zubia	Paul Harrington
Concepcion Gonzalez	Cynthia Herrera	Stephen Fernandez	Darren Cole
Antonio Rosales	Sonia Schulte	Fernando Ruiz	Torita Hansby
Gerardo Morales	Liz Herrera	Emily Thompson	
Denise Triolo	Julietta Arredondo	Isela Peña	

**Cabinet/Staff:** Dr. José Espinoza, *Superintendent of Schools*; Lucia Borrego, *Assistant Superintendent - Secondary Education*; Rudy Campoya, *Interim Chief Human Resources Officer*; Tony Reza, *Chief Financial Officer - Financial Services*; Tom Eyeington, *Chief Operations Officer - District Operations*; Dr. Maria G. Arias, *Director - State and Federal Programs*; Cory R. Craft, *Academic Compliance Officer - Academic Services*; Jennifer Davila, *Director - Bilingual / ESL Education*; Daniel Escobar, *Chief Communications Officer - Public Relations*; Kelly McBain, *Director - Research and Evaluation*; Lisa Noe, *Director - Special Education*; George Thomas, *Director - Career and Technical Education*; Joyce Zarowski, *Director - Human Resources, Staffing*; Fernie Vasquez, *Assistant Director - State and Federal Programs*; Miguel Moreno, *Coordinator - Instructional Technology*; Oscar Leza, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*

## I. Welcome - Mr. Paul Harrington and Dr. José Espinoza

Mr. Harrington welcomed members, pointed out items on the meeting agenda, and reminded members about the notes page that is available for them to take information back to their SIT committees. He then handed the meeting over to Dr. Espinoza for a few announcements. Dr. Espinoza thanked members for attending and spoke about the annual James Butler Games, which were just held, commenting about how great the event turned out. He announced that Ms. Patricia Cuevas was selected as the new principal at Americas High School and that this was formally presented at the last board meeting. He stated that a community meeting was held at Eastlake High School for families whose children will be attending Mission Ridge Elementary School. Dr. Espinoza added that the community meeting was energetic and successful. Speaking about the 2014-2015 calendar, he stated that Veterans Day will occur on a Tuesday in November and that the calendar was reviewed by various District stakeholders. He reminded attendees that STAAR testing will begin next week and that everyone should make sure that proper procedures are followed to ensure integrity and honesty. He asked members to please remind their campus teams of this to ensure that SISD maintains an aura of positive posture. To stress this point, he read an article about cheating and how the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will be extra vigilant due to increased accountability pressures. He asked Ms. McBain to chime in and she reminded members to tell campus teams not to cover windows during testing, to help with monitoring, and to interrupt the testing environment as little as possible. Mr. Harrington finished up this part of the



meeting, again reminding members to please communicate all of this important information to their teams.

## **II. SIT Committee Issues - *Mr. Paul Harrington***

In response to a question posed by an EPAC member via email, Mr. Harrington spoke about the fines that would be sent to violators of school bus traffic laws, from photos snapped by newly installed cameras on SISD school buses. He called upon Mr. Reyna, who stated that no traffic fines would occur during the piloting period.

Mr. Harrington called upon Ms. Jennifer Davila to clarify information about ESL training and certification for Special Education teachers. An EPAC member shared that Special Education teachers at her campus were not able to sign up for ESL certification classes here in the District and were told that no funding was available. Ms. Davila, who expressed a desire to find out more about the incident, stated that this is most likely a miscommunication because no recent trainings have been offered by the Bilingual Education Department. She stated that Special Education teachers seeking ESL certification must self-study and/or obtain training at places such as Region 19, then take the test and possibly be reimbursed. (Teachers wanting more information about the reimbursement program should contact Dr. Magdalena Aguilar at the Academic Services Department.)

Mr. Harrington addressed the question that was resubmitted regarding training dates on the new calendar, particularly the notion of full-day trainings for teachers instead of half-day/early dismissal trainings. It was clarified that, although it is understood that teachers would prefer full-day trainings, this would diminish money that the District receives via Average Daily Attendance (ADA) because instructional days for students would be diminished.

## **III. Approval of the EPAC Minutes from February 20th – *Mr. Paul Harrington***

Mr. Harrington asked members approve the EPAC meeting minutes from February 20, 2014. A motion to approve was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved without opposition.

## **IV. Staffing Patterns – *Ms. Joyce Zarowski***

Ms. Zarowski presented to members about staffing patterns via a PowerPoint presentation, explaining the formulas used by the Human Resources Department to manage the movement and utilization of personnel throughout the District. She explained the numerous variables that must be considered, such as class size.

An EPAC member asked if there was any plan to have a formal Dyslexia program put back in place in the District. Ms. Zarowski explained that this staffing presentation is about general staffing and called upon Mr. Fraga for information. Mr. Fraga explained that Ms. Pat Rominsky is the specialist in charge of overseeing this and that meetings will occur between the necessary personnel to ensure that campuses get proper support with regards to Dyslexia. The EPAC member added that identification of Dyslexic students is also an issue. Ms. Noe spoke about how Dyslexia services are provided to campuses and provided a backdrop of how current actions are carried out. She stated that, currently, no plans are in place for a Dyslexia "department" but that issues are being examined.

## **V. Closing – *Mr. Paul Harrington***

Mr. Harrington reminded members about the EPAC meeting on April 16th and Dr. Arias pointed out that this meeting would be held on a Wednesday. Mr. Harrington encouraged members to be enthusiastic and support students with regard to testing as best as they could, to keep them positive. He closed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

