

EPAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 15, 2013
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	Patricia Ochoa	Lorena Martinez	Monique Garza
Kimberly Padilla	Kimberly Holt	Ruth Harris	Javier Marquez
Violet Chavez	Herlinda Johnston	Melissa Piña	Blanca Topete
Oscar Gonzalez	Olga Terrazas	Maria Belinda Arnold	Josh Inguanzo
Dulce Aleman-Seanez	Lori Alt	Sherry Lewis	Dr. Magdalena Aguilar
Irene Rojas	Annette Gonzalez	Josefina Mendoza	Angelica Herrera
Mayte Marquez	Cristel Edens	Angelica Zubia	Steve Warren
Jessica Ferando	Sonia Schulte	Yvonne Romero	Darren Cole
Conception Gonzalez	Liz Herrera	Brandon Rios	Paul Harrington
Antonio Rosales	Julietta Arredondo	Emily Thompson	Torita Hansby
Gerardo Morales	Anna Muñoz	Isela Peña	Neysa Hardin
Denise Triolo	Kathy Painter	Dianna Rios	Ross Teller
Lloyd Ryan	Christine Llewelyn	Elizabeth Ponce Lugo	Edgar Rincon

Cabinet/Staff: Dr. José Espinoza, *Superintendent of Schools*; Troy Byrne, *Interim Assistant Superintendent - Secondary Education*; Brenda Chacon, *Interim Assistant Superintendent - Elementary Education*; Tony Reza, *Chief Financial Officer - Financial Services*; Dr. Maria G. Arias, *Director - State and Federal Programs*; Rudy Campoya, *Director - Human Resources*; Jennifer Davila, *Director - Bilingual / ESL Education*; Kelly McBain, *Director - Research and Evaluation*; Hector Reyna, *Director - Technology Services*; George Thomas, *Director - Career and Technical Education*; Lisa Noe, *Associate Director - Special Education*; Fernie Vasquez, *Assistant Director - State and Federal Programs*; Tammi Mackeben, *Coordinator - Guidance and Counseling*; Miguel Moreno, *Coordinator - Instructional Technology*; Oscar Leza, *Title I Specialist*

I. Welcome - Dr. Maria G. Arias & Dr. José Espinoza

Dr. Arias opened the meeting and thanked members for attending the first SISD Educator's Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) meeting for the 2013-2014 school year. She turned the meeting over to Dr. Espinoza, who shared background information about himself and his career, for the sake of new EPAC members. He introduced Mr. Troy Byrne and Ms. Brenda Chacon as the Interim Assistant Superintendents for Secondary and Elementary Education, respectively, and announced to members that all Socorro ISD campuses had met standard with regard to the new state accountability measures. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Espinoza reviewed programs and initiatives that are currently in place to ensure students success.

II. Technology Update - Mr. Hector Reyna

Mr. Reyna shared with members that the District's migration to the new Tyler Munis system is still underway. He stated that the migration has posed challenges, but that they are being addressed as best as possible. He asked members to provide feedback about any issues they have experienced with the new electronic grade book. The EPAC representative from Jane Hambric School stated that teachers



are frustrated with the system rollout and training. Mr. Reyna expressed that the system is new but workable, and that problems should only be temporary. Mr. Paul Harrington from Socorro High School stated that he has received positive comments and email regarding the system. Mr. Edgar Rincon asked when the online parent portal would be available, and Mr. Reyna replied that it should be ready by October 1st, 2013. Mr. Miguel Moreno stated that the new technology items are in place and are moving along. Ms. Neysa Hardin from Americas High School asked students would be able to see their grades online and Mr. Reyna replied that it would be around October 1st. With regard to VDI and desktops, he stated that these setups would occur around the middle of September via a schedule. Responding to the notion that the electronic grade book is not feasible for some team-teaching scenarios, Mr. Moreno stated that because this is problematic, and adding a third teacher is not advisable. Members asked that this be looked into, particularly because inclusion teachers may need access. Mr. Moreno commented that the system is highly customizable but that this would take time. An incident list for specific occurrences is being maintained. Ms. Jennifer Davila stated that issues with Limited English Proficient (LEP) students have come up and she asked if there is any way for campus clerks to identify students in order to place them in proper classes. Mr. Moreno stated that these reports are coming and that proper coding would be part of the process, for all At-Risk students and Special Population students. Ms. Monique Garza from Keys Academy asked where credit information for high school students could be found to help track their progress. Ms. Kelly McBain responded that the Online Student Profile (OSP), which is what Ms. Garza was referring to, is no longer available. Other venues for retrieving this information will be explored. Dr. Espinoza concluded this portion of the meeting by stating that it is important for members to know who to call when issues are encountered, and that campus State Compensatory Education Intervention (SCEI) Coaches are a good place to start.

III. Election of EPAC Chairperson – *Dr. Maria G. Arias*

Dr. Arias presented the topics that EPAC will address during the year and stated that the EPAC Chairperson is key to the communication process with the Superintendent. She opened the floor to begin nominations for EPAC Chairperson. The two nominees were Ms. Irene Rojas from Ernesto Serna School and Mr. Paul Harrington from Socorro High School. Both Ms. Rojas and Mr. Harrington addressed EPAC members, providing some background information about themselves. Secret ballots were handed out to EPAC members, who then submitted their votes for tallying. Mr. Paul Harrington was voted EPAC Chairperson for the 2013-2014 school year.

IV. EPAC Roles and Responsibilities / Administrative Regulation BQB – *Dr. Maria G. Arias*

Dr. Arias went over a PowerPoint presentation that defined EPAC roles and responsibilities. She discussed the necessary composition of both EPAC and campus School Improvement Team (SIT) committees, and recognized Ms. Blanca Topete from Burger King for agreeing to be part of EPAC as a business representative. After stressing that EPAC members are also SIT members at their respective campuses, she emphasized that SISD board members may opt to visit campus SIT meetings from time to time to ensure that the decision-making process is being executed with diligence. The EPAC representative from Americas High School asked if students may be part of a campus SIT committee. Dr. Arias replied that this is not in policy, but students may certainly attend SIT meetings and offer their views. Dr. Arias concluded this portion of the meeting by going over Administrative Regulation BQB, which defines the duties of EPAC representatives.

V. EPAC Meeting Calendar / 2013-2014 DIP/CIPs Online – *Dr. Maria G. Arias*

Dr. Arias shared the EPAC meeting calendar with members and requested that they submit their SIT committee meeting calendars before the end of the meeting. She demonstrated the location of the SISD



District and Campus Improvement Plans online to members, stating that they should each become familiar with the improvement plans of their own campuses, particularly since their SIT committees should be discussing them regularly.

VI. For the Good of the Order & Closing – *Dr. Maria G. Arias*

Dr. Arias opened the floor for questions and/or concerns from EPAC members. The member from Walter Clarke Middle School asked if paraprofessionals would be docked pay because of a loss of 1 non-duty day, specific to the 226 employee calendar. Mr. Byrne stated that he would bring this up at a cabinet meeting for a response and that he would share the information with Mr. Harrington to relay. Members suggested that "For the Good of the Order" be done at the beginning of all EPAC meetings to ensure that concerns are properly voiced. A concern was brought up by the EPAC member from Ensor Middle School --- that there is much food waste with regard to "Breakfast in the Classroom" and that some students would like a second serving. It was decided that this would be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Monique Garza from Keys Academy asked that something be done with regard to viewing credits for high school students online for proper tracking. Mr. Byrne stated that data of this type will be rolled out piece by piece and that campuses should watch for updates. Dr. Arias closed the meeting at approximately 5:52 p.m.

