

EPAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2014

DSC Conference Rooms C&D

4:30 p.m.

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

Members Present:

Elizabeth Ponce Lugo	Luz Apodaca	Mayte Marquez	Cynthia Reyes
Dianna Rios	Lee Ann Troncoso	Jessica Ferando	Oscar Gonzalez
Adam Carson	Maria Belinda Arnold	Angelica Soto	Patricia Ochoa
Deana White	Christine Llewelyn	Sonia Schulte	Noemi Martinez
Edgar Rincon	Lorena Martinez	Maria Washington	Javier Marquez
Fernando Ruiz	Elena Burdan	Monica Hernando	Dr. Magdalena Aguilar
Luis Miranda	Connie Gonzalez	Kimberly Holt	Steve Warren
Stephen Fernandez	Jennifer De La Riva	Olga Terrazas	Earl Sanchez
Fernando Bustos	Martha Ortega	Lizette Castro	Darren Cole
Emily Thompson	Gerardo Morales	Gloria Morales	Lorena Cartagena
Frenda Serda-Gerardo	Julietta Arredondo	Sandra Burton	
Ruth Harris	Vanessa Parra	Gina Panfile	
Ryan Trujillo	Jackie Beltran	Annie Gibson	

Cabinet/Staff: Lucia Borrego, *Assistant Superintendent - Secondary Education*; Alisa Zapata-Farmer, *Assistant Superintendent - Elementary Education*; Tom Eyeington, *Chief Operations Officer - District Operations*; Tony Fraga, *Chief Academic Officer - Academic Services*; Tony Reza, *Chief Financial Officer - Financial Services*; Dr. Maria G. Arias, *Director - State and Federal Programs*; Jennifer Davila, *Director - Bilingual/ESL Education*; Dr. Holly Fields, *Director of Secondary Staffing - Human Resources*; Kelly McBain, *Director - Research and Evaluation*; Lisa Noe, *Director - Special Education*; Fernie Vasquez, *Assistant Director - State and Federal Programs*; Tammi Mackeben, *Coordinator - Guidance and Counseling*; Miguel Moreno, *Coordinator - Instructional Technology*; Catherine Morrel, *Coordinator - Advanced Academics*; Elizabeth Rios, *Student Systems Coordinator - Technology Services*; David Akers, *Team Leader - Technology Support Services*; Yvonne Aragon, *Instructional Officer, Secondary ELAR - Instructional Support*; Stephanie Carrasco, *Instructional Officer, Secondary Science - Instructional Support*; Leslie Goldmann, *Instructional Officer, Elementary Social Studies - Instructional Support*; Sergio Jaurrieta, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*; Oscar Leza, *Title I Specialist - State and Federal Programs*; Valerie Sanchez, *Assessment and Data Specialist - Research and Evaluation*; Desiree Valdivia, *State Compensatory Education Specialist - State and Federal Programs*

I. Welcome - Mr. Darren Cole

Mr. Cole opened the meeting, thanked members for attending, and proceeded towards approval of the minutes for the previous EPAC meeting.

II. Consider Approval of EPAC Minutes for August 21, 2014 - Mr. Darren Cole

Mr. Cole opened the floor for a motion to approve the EPAC minutes for the meeting held on August 21, 2014. Ms. Angelica Soto from Benito Martinez Elementary motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Elizabeth Lugo from Socorro High School. Members voted during the meeting and the minutes were approved.



III. Staff Development – *Dr. Magdalena Aguilar and Mr. Tony Fraga*

Before Dr. Aguilar and Mr. Fraga shared information about staff development, Ms. Borrego addressed members about a few items. She stated that the Walk for Success and the Phone Bank were a huge success. She added that Leavers (students who have left school) in the area are in need of encouragement and support and that the district actually saves lives by bringing them back to complete their education. She reminded members that encouragement and support are also needed by students who participate in the district's athletic programs. She stated that campus principals had met and that they provided great feedback regarding recent district endeavors. Before handing the meeting over to Dr. Aguilar, she emphasized the importance of EPAC members and their efforts.

Dr. Aguilar addressed members about staff development and introduced the Instructional Officers from the Instructional Support Department, explaining their individual roles. Mr. Fraga spoke about site-based decision-making, how guidelines for this are based in the Texas Education Code, and how standardized initiatives are rolled out district-wide. Dr. Aguilar shared about state standards and how various methods for teaching must be consolidated in order to support common goals. She referred to a graphic to help explain this and also referred to a form submitted by SIT committees to request specific topics of staff development. As was done last year, she asked members to please take the form, present it at their next SIT committee meeting for deliberation and completion, and then to submit it to her by October 31 to help implement some of their suggestions. She spoke about how forms that were submitted by SIT committees last year were used to help formulate professional development opportunities.

IV. School Improvement Team Issues – *Mr. Darren Cole*

Mr. Cole opened the floor to issues brought up by campus SIT committees to be discussed at EPAC.

The member from Slider Middle School discussed the nature of implemented professional development, pointing in particular to the phrase "teacher initiated" in the Texas Education Code. The concern is that input provided by teachers is not always taken into account and that additional district-wide initiatives are imposed upon campuses instead. The notion is to ensure that the needs of teachers and the suggestions made by them are addressed, to minimize mandated initiatives for all campuses, and to strengthen site-based decision-making. Mr. Fraga stated that getting feedback from campuses is indeed critical, and noted that academic expectations that are common to all must be addressed with a mutually supportive process, beneficial to a campus but also to the district at large. The member stated that teachers at his campus have about 10 ideas for professional development and would like to ensure that these ideas are taken into consideration. Mr. Fraga stated that initiatives are rolled out by consulting with stakeholder groups and by proceeding systemically. Ms. Borrego emphasized the process by which teacher suggestions are proposed to SIT and then proposed to EPAC and offered help with this process at campuses, so that both the needs of the campus and the district are addressed.

The member from Hilley Elementary shared that technology issues are still being experienced at the campus. Mr. Moreno addressed the problems being experienced and that support will still be offered as best possible. He stated that specific issues must be shared and that they will be addressed one at a time. The member from Escontrias expressed difficulty with getting support from specific technology personnel and Mr. Moreno asked her to consult with him after the meeting to rectify this. Mr. Moreno spoke about some global issues with district/campus technology infrastructure and asked members to discuss how things such as video/music streaming can cause problems that affect everyone. He assured members that problems are still being addressed.



A member asked if TRS and assessment availability were being looked into. Mr. Fraga stated that they can be found under "District Resources" on the website, but that TRS is still behind but that everything should be available by intersession. SCE-I Coaches were told about this at a recent meeting. Ms. Michelle Andha interjected that the assessments and performance indicators have been moved so that parents can access them as well. Ms. Aragon also added that there is a 48-hour turn-around between TRS and Eduphoria when it comes to the uploading of assessments.

A parent representative asked if crosswalks that are fading are being addressed and repainted by the district and if there is something in place to monitor this. Mr. Eyeington related that deliberations with the city are an issue with regards to this but that campuses can contact him to get crosswalks repainted. He shared some of the difficulties experienced with this and that the district sometimes ends up paying completely for crosswalks that it is not responsible for, even though the city insists on providing its own input.

V. Closing – Mr. Darren Cole

Dr. Arias reminded members of the next meeting on October 16, 2014 that will deal with budgeting. Mr. Cole thanked members and asked them to please leave their name tents. He closed the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

