

## **DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MAY 19, 2016 MEETING**

#### **MINUTES**

The meeting started at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2016, with 21 of the 31 committee members present.

Kevin Freels, Assistant Superintendent of Campus Operations, began the meeting with an overview of the topics that will be discussed. On the agenda for this meeting were minutes of the March 8, 2016, District Advisory Committee meeting, ROISD Staff Development, Title I Parent Involvement, and District of Innovation.

All committee members received the minutes of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were accepted as written.

Staff Development was explained stating the difference between state required staff development and the district's requirements. Some of the state required staff development trainings are Legal Issues: FERPA and Copyright Law, Legal Issues: Sexual Harassment, Legal Issues: Section 504, Blood-Borne Pathogens, Type II Diabetes, Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention, and new this year is the TTESS Training (which is the new teacher appraisal system). The district required staff development trainings include school safety, classroom content, and technology. The number of hours related to the district level staff development depends on the position held within the district.

Title I parent involvement was discussed. Nancy Toney is the liaison for the district, and she is required to provide this information to the District Advisory Committee. It was explained that currently all of the elementary campuses in Red Oak ISD are eligible as Title I campuses. We do not claim ROMS or ROHS as Title I. Title I designation means the number of students from low-income families at that particular campus is at least 40 percent. Title I funds provide school wide services for all students on a Title I campus.

There are six ways that Red Oak ISD portrays Title I parent involvement. 1) Parents and school staff revise and improve the District and Campus Parent Involvement policies. 2) Red Oak ISD provides support in implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve academic performance. 3) Red Oak ISD will assist campuses with guidance for strong parental involvement, such as parenting programs and activities. 4) The district will coordinate strategies that include other ESSA programs ("Every Student Succeeds Act"). 5) Red Oak ISD will conduct annual evaluations of the Title I program. 6) Campuses/district will provide opportunities for parental involvement through activities, conferences, and translations.

Next, District of Innovation was discussed. This designation allows certain flexibilities that Texas open enrollment charter schools demonstrate, to be explored by traditional independent school districts. The process includes designing a plan to present to the School Board, hold a public meeting with the District Advisory Committee, and submit it to the state for approval.

Some of the exemption areas that will not change for Red Oak ISD are site-based decision making processes, the school start date in August, class size ratio, and 90% attendance. The two main areas that Red Oak ISD would like to explore are the teacher certifications and the minimum minutes of instruction. These two areas would impact Red Oak ISD by allowing the district flexibility to hire industry professionals in our Career and Technical programs, and use extra days in our school calendar for ongoing support and activities for struggling students.

The flexibility relating to teacher certifications would allow our district innovative ways to obtain quality instructors with experience in a particular industry to teach our students. An example was given relating to the criminal justice program at the high school, as well as the opportunity to share instructors from TSTC to teach our high school students in some of the dual credit courses.

The minutes of instruction allows flexibility with delayed start, early close, intervention, and enrichment activities. Our district benefitted from the early close option this year with the extra minutes banked at the end of the year for bad weather. It was explained that the district must use the lowest calculated minutes of all district campuses; therefore, 450 minutes per day (at the elementary level) is the designated number for Red Oak ISD. An example of the 2016-2017 adopted school calendar was used to show the minutes calculated. With eight extra days of minutes, the district would be able to provide “optional” activity days for the students, such as SAT workshops. It was emphasized that the 187 days contract for staff is not flexible. We are allowed to shorten the days for students, but the state said the 187 contract days for staff is not eligible.

The District of Innovation opportunity would possibly allow the district to request funding for bus transportation and student nutrition on these “optional” school days for students. The designated days could possibly be completely optional, there could be activities designed for all students at every level, students would not be penalized for not attending, and parents may choose to use these dates as vacation. But for those students who attend, it would allow some additional support to those students who need extra help. The idea of District of Innovation is to think outside the box. It would allow the opportunity for Red Oak ISD to do some different activities for the students. We are not exactly sure what will be accepted by the state until the end of the process.

The meeting was opened up to the Committee members for their feedback. Comments mentioned by committee members follow: 1) It is our desire to do what is best for the students. 2) This would allow teachers to spend quality time with those students who do choose to show up on those designated dates; and it would benefit the students for staff to work with smaller groups if only ½ the classroom was in attendance. 3) It was discussed that there would be a plan (possible sign-up sheet) to know which students are attending in order to coordinate activities for that day. 4) The high school would like to see parent involvement activities similar to the elementary campuses. 5) It was discussed that the designated dates could be flexible with the District of Innovation, where the elementary campuses could have a different date than the secondary campuses, if needed. 6) A question was asked about the teacher certifications in other core subjects. It was explained that this area will mainly focus on professionals in the Career and Technical program. 7) A committee member expressed her desire to see parent conference days

built into the calendar at the elementary level. Some districts in another state use ½ days to accommodate some parent conferences in the evenings, as well as day time hours. 8) A committee member asked if the district would consider the 4-day school week option. It was noted that some districts in West Texas have done this option, but it does not seem ideal for the students to attend school for 10-11 hours each day, plus be on a bus for another hour or two. 9) One member expressed her appreciation for Red Oak ISD doing a great job on due diligence. The district is not necessarily doing what “others” are doing; but we are setting our own standards, and the district is benefitting from that.

In conclusion, the District Advisory Committee agreed that all members present are in support of the District of Innovation plan. Kevin Freels requested the committee members to please continue to e-mail their ideas to him for future consideration.

The next meeting of the District Advisory Committee will be in August, as well as email communications as needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.