



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)
2009-2010

February 15, 2010
5:30 p.m.
Board Room

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Facilitators: Mary Jo Monfils, Interim Assistant Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Sharon Moore, Administrator for Secondary Curriculum
Bea Garcia, Administrator for Elementary Curriculum

- I. Welcome: Brett Springston, Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Springston reminded members that they play an important role in guiding the district. He praised the efforts of teachers and campuses to support student participation in programs that have the complexity that helps students learn how to think critically like Chess and Fine Arts. He let members know that while other districts were releasing teachers and staff, BISD is currently okay and has a good fund balance. He did remind the members that with new schools opening there are significant expenses and not to expect any additional raises because the district is trying not to increase any recurring expenditures. He is meeting with legislators to inform them of the many financial challenges faced by districts. He noted the district could lose over \$1.8 million dollars due to student absences due to the flu season this year. Mr. Springston reminded us that the good news is we have roofs over our heads and have jobs and to be thoughtful of those who do not.
- II. Roll Call was taken by sign-in sheet with the following members not in attendance:

Yolanda Wommack	Garza Elementary
Socorro Garza	Palm Grove Elementary
Daisy Rodriguez	Vela Middle School
Guadalupe Izaguirre	Brownsville Police Dept.
Veronica Cordova	Paredes Elem. (parent)
Marisela Cortez	Hist. Brownsville Museum
Louise Ara	Holiday Inn
- III. Recommend approval of minutes for January 18, 2010: Josie Villarreal from Putegnat Elementary made the motion to accept the minutes and Irma Villarreal from Brownsville Learning Academy seconded her motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.
- IV. President's Report: February Officers' Meeting was held on Monday, February 8, 2010 and the minutes are in the folders to read. Ms. Bea Garcia noted that at the meeting it was suggested that the committee members have the opportunity to review and collaborate between content areas to look for ways to integrate or align some activities in the District Improvement Plan.
- V. Update on the K-12 Fine Arts Program: Dr. Rebecca V. Rendon presented an update on some of the changes occurring in Fine Arts in the State. She noted that the district had 27 All State students at the Texas Music Educators Association Conference last week and that Texas has the strongest music program in the State. Now elementary campuses are expected to teach Fine Arts, including Theatre Arts, and the district is making sure each campus has teachers in place who can implement the TEKS.

She is working with principals to establish grading procedures for Theatre Arts. She also noted that the House Bill 3 requires middle school students to have one full credit of Fine Arts and that campuses will have to make adjustments for this to happen. She informed the committee that the changes in the physical education requirements did remove the option of counting dance as a physical education equivalent credit but that could change back in the future.

- VI. Action Item: Request for Teacher Pull Out Days
- Instructional Technology: David Mitchell asked the committee to approve 2 pull out days. One for training campus webmasters in the new software and the other for the Intel Teach participants. The motion to approve was made by Rosie Gorena from Lopez High School and seconded by Jill Swanson from Russell Elementary. The committee unanimously approved the days.
- VII. District Improvement Plan Review of the following areas by subcommittees: Attendance, Dropout, Discipline Management/Safe Schools, College Preparation, Parents and Community, and Technology
- a. Attendance subcommittee members were led by Adan Salinas.
 - b. Dropout subcommittee members were led by Mary Tolman.
 - c. Parent and Community subcommittee members were led by Mary Lou Esparza and Rosalva Larrasquitu.
 - d. Discipline Management/Safe Schools were led by Minnie Zamora and Ana Aguilar.
 - e. College Preparation subcommittee members were led by Merrill Hammons.
 - f. Technology subcommittee members were led by David Mitchell.
- VIII. Announcements
- Next DEIC Meeting – Monday, March 22, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the BISD Board Room
- IX. Adjournment: motion to adjourn was made before committee members divided up for their individual sub-committees. Motion was made by Sara Aldape-Flores from Champion Elementary and seconded by Beatriz Garza from Brite Elementary. The committee unanimously approved the motion and broke out into their subcommittees.