

District of Innovation

Meeting started at 4:05

Attendees: Shannon Cunningham, Stephanie Robles, Larry Fox, Angie Vaughn, Carol Sales, Bethlyn Eby, Ferran Kaspar, Krista Kaspar, Debby Patterson, Denise Williams, Sarah Chisum, Jennifer Faulkenbery, Tracey Goodman, Jared Jacobs, Lisa Kowalick, Lisa Martischnig, Angelica Perkins, Letitia Pert, Jim Price, Alan Rainey, Amy Simmons, Diann Taylor, Michael Tayntor

Cunningham reviewed information from the 1st meeting on Thursday, November 10th. Small groups shared areas of need in WFISD, areas they would like to see addressed or not addressed at all. Attendees were asked to share any ideas they thought about over the past week. Ideas or questions suggested:

Mr. Michael Tayntor- Asked about WFISD's advisory committee. Ms. Patterson said there were several community members and parents were on the team as well as staff and it was being updated and information is going out soon

Ms. Bethlyn Eby- Suggested going back to A/B Block-secondary, 2nd conference for STAAR tested areas, parent technology (requirement to check grades)

Ms. Shannon Cunningham- Extend recess time for elementary.

WFISD Parent- Concerned about grades not being posted until the day before progress/report cards go out and concern about teacher availability for Meet The Teacher nights (with own personal child conflicts and athletics, etc.)

Larry Fox covered areas we can/cannot address through DOI. Cunningham reminded committee of charge: DOI will address TEC mandates that we want flexibility around to do more for our kids in WFISD.

The four doctoral students (who are initial group that presented to Board) divided the areas that were brought up at first meeting into three categories.

Highlighted areas are "prevented" with current TEC. The non-highlighted areas are not areas that WFISD is prevented from doing based on TEC. It may be due to district decision or staffing/money/resource needs

Scheduling

- Calendar (moving start date earlier)
- Evening classes (\$)
- 4 day week
- Year-round CTE center (\$)
- Half-day pre-K
- Adding conference period (6 period day) (\$)
- Adding study hall/flex/advisory period
- More PD throughout the year instead of front-loaded days
- Weekly or bi-monthly late-start for PLC/PD

Staffing

- CTE certification flexibility (with required classroom management hours)
- High Need area (FOR LANG/BILINGUAL) certification flexibility
- Probationary Certification from 1 yr. To 2 yr.
- Technology specialist co-teaching model (\$)
- Campus Behavior Coordinator waived
- Higher compensation for teachers at low performing schools (\$)

- Higher compensation for teachers with masters' degrees to retain good teachers (\$)
- Do not decrease 450 minutes of plan per 10 days. WFISD agrees to not do this.
- Do not take duty-free 30 minute lunch. WFISD agrees to not do this.

Learning Environment

- Looping
- Magnet Program reinstated
- PA Interruptions
- Lift class size ratio 22:1 for K-4 in certain schools
- Set class size ratio for K-5 (\$)
- Lower class size for low SES and/or low performing schools (Already happening.)

Angelica Perkins discussed interest in a 4 day school week.

Lisa Martischnig questioned the class size ratio. She is not in favor for lifting class size ratio. Simmons and Cunningham remembered that this was suggested at first meeting.

Amy Simmons was concerned about schools/teachers that were performing better than other schools. She feels these teachers/schools get more work handed to them with fewer resources.

Debby Patterson shared information about class size ratio.

Debby Patterson discussed calendar options under DOI. Two calendars were presented. Patterson and Cunningham reminded DOI committee that there is a calendar committee that will make a recommendation on calendar. DOI can offer suggestions, but she needs to know if DOI will recommend looking at earlier start date for students.

Cyndi Kohl, Director of HR gave an example of the process to hire using a school district permit. If waiver under DOI is issued, Kohl would still go through the process of ensuring individual is the best fit for CTE. WFISD has only used this process 3 or 4 times. At this time staffing has not been completed for the new CTE. Another component of the school district permit requires new hires to have 20 hours of classroom management training. Many members of the committee agree with this requirement.

Stephanie Robles informed committee not to speak to press on behalf of DOI committee.

Angie Vaughn clarified voting procedure. All members had 1 minute to speak. Committee wanted a quorum (required members to be present to vote). Discussion of 75-80% majority required to pass DOI component. Group of teachers wanted 80%.

Voting started at 5:19 for calendar option. 19 out of 21 in favor of calendar flexibility (earlier student start date) under DOI Guidelines.

Cyndi Kohl talked about difficulty in recruiting Bilingual and Foreign Language Teachers as well as the high need for Bilingual Teachers.

Consider extending probationary years for new incoming teachers

Debby Patterson asked committee to select a spokesperson to speak to the press.

Committee appointed Cunningham to speak to press.
Meeting adjourned at 5:32