

District Of Innovation Committee Meeting

1/2/2017

Sign-in Sheets signed.

Agenda/Minutes

1. Welcome back. Happy New Year.
Introduced guests: Dee Palmore, Principal RHS and Mike Kuhrt, Supt.
2. Recap: Committee discussion from December: Will we ask for flexibility around: minutes of Instruction, 90% Attendance rule, Teacher Certification, Teacher Evaluation System, class size ratios K-4?
3. Superintendent Kuhrt shared history of how DOI came to be and what he heard and learned at legislative session. Commissioner and legislators are saying to use DOI for flexibility that charter schools have had forever (b/c state mandate doesn't apply to them) and now you get to, so do it.

DOI member asked about 7 period to 8 period day at secondary level. Kuhrt responded that there is not a mandate around it, so it is not a DOI discussion item. WFISD history is due to required HS credits and 15 required EOCs. Kuhrt said it is no longer really a need since we now only have 4 HS EOC tests. Easier to add periods and add staff than it is to take away. Will affect fine arts and electives if we moved to a 7 period day, but it actually may be a cheaper option for the district.

DOI Member asked about block schedule. Why does WFISD not do it?
It is expensive. Affects/Limits fine arts and electives.

Discussion about required minutes of instruction:

ADA period is 10:15. Reason to ask for flexibility around minutes is so can count a kid who gets their credits done for night time jobs. Need a full staff those hours so can get expensive. If we get this flexibility, we don't have to apply for it for all schools.

Could help CTE Center as to not have to schedule classes/space at other facilities. Will help with Go College dual credit initiative, as well.

Gives us flexibility around how we take attendance and it is not tied to ADA.

Kuhrt shared that schools of the future will not look like traditional school now.

Palmore shared CAPS (PACE and PACE Plus) numbers. 20-120 students.

Kids who leave half day...we don't get funding for those kids.

DOI Committee Member asked if Supt. Kuhrt is aware if other districts are asking for flexibility around mandates even if they won't make a plan to do so. Kuhrt said yes. They want flexibility around everything even though they may not do anything so that they have the option.

Reason being is because there is a concern is that legislative session may not allow flexibility after this DOI b/c districts had the option to do this and did not, so having the option to do what is best for kids is good.

Discussion about teacher certification. Supt. Kuhrt said WFISD flexibility of teacher certification would only be for LOTE and CTE that cannot be filled due to the uniqueness of the certification, not for an elementary grade level position like a 4th grade teacher.

Palmore said that finding certified teachers is a challenge at secondary level.

DOI Committee Member asked, "In reference to filling a language position, what candidate do you take if you have two and one is certified and one is not?"

Kuhrt and Palmore said you take the best candidate.

Palmore discussed Texas Teacher Alt Cert and growing number. Other DOI committee agreed that alt cert and new teachers need support in the classroom and as professionals, as many don't stay in the profession without necessary support.

DOI Committee member stated that the committee has been really dissecting pros and cons to know if they should agree to flexibility around certain mandates or not. DOI Committee Member asked "If we give flexibility as a DOI committee, then what? There is a fear that decisions will get made that are not in the spirit as to why committee agreed to flexibility. That we have "turned over every rock" and discussed lots of pros and cons so we can make an informed decision.

Good question. Board has expressed the same concern and Board and Supt have interest and plans in involving as many stakeholders as possible in creating the plan as possible.

Supt Kuhrt explained the process to change local policy. Mentioned that the Board Book is hundreds of pages of online local and legal policies. Legal policy says you shall and local policy says how you will carry out the legal policy.

Changing local policy is at least a 2 Board Meeting process if we approve DOI flexibility and then have an approved plan.

Patterson's Office (policy experts) created legal jargon based on what others (other formed committees, Board approval) say(s). She does not develop that plan alone.

Has to be a transparent process. Need to adjust policy to implement it or not, if we decide to implement it or not.

Those who make the plan may not be the DOI committee(s) itself that work on plans around each area of flexibility.

The committee is just saying yes to flexibility and can make recommendations, but other committees would convene to address each area.

DOI Committee Member shared that in Eagle Mountain/Saginaw the DOI only took 2 weeks to meet and agree to give flexibilities.

DOI Committee Member shared that MANY elementary teachers are concerned about the change of the 22:1 class ration K-4. Kuhrt addressed flexibility to 22:1 class ratio K-4 scare. Addressed: ease of students being worked with, size of classrooms at certain campuses, low performing schools that have way less than 22:1 class size ratio. Mandate is expensive. Suggested ratio should be by district average. We cannot afford to do it so we apply or waivers.

What about affording to hire for CTE center? Will reduce electives or have to teach something else. Funding for a kid in CTE is more to the dollar. Goal with House Bill 5 plan is to certify what we need most in our community. For WF, it is mostly health care related (not docs and nurses). Restaurant/retail management is the #1 growing industry in WF.

Discussion of 4a and 4b money for factories. Less it costs per homeowner to fund education b/c increases tax base from those places. Tax rate is currently at \$1.23 for WFISD. Increase of industry (factory-type) business would generate more tax income

Committee thanked Mr. Kuhrt for being there and left at 4:30

DOI committee discussed more about trust/concerns with who creates plan because of WFISD history.

Committee thanked Mr. Palmore for coming and sharing his high school expertise. Mr. Palmore left at 4:40

DOI Committee Discussion about teacher evaluation and pros/cons to asking for flexibility around the TTESS.

DOI Committee member suggested a student and parent course evaluation to help inform parents and administrators.

Next meeting, will vote on flexibility areas and see where we are. Areas to vote on and then offer recommendations are:

Campus Behavior Coordinator

Class size ratio K-4

Minutes of Instruction

90% Attendance Rule

Teacher Certification

Teacher Appraisal

Start Date (Already voted)

PA Interruptions

4. Next Meeting will be Monday, January 9 at 4:15 in Room B117B.
It is important to have as many members as possible to vote on these areas and give recommendations to the Advisory Committee and Board.