



Alamo Heights Independent School District
7101 Broadway ◦ San Antonio, Texas ◦ 78209 ◦ Phone 210-824-2483
District Education Advisory Council

*Minutes for Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 11:30AM
Alamo Heights High School – HS Oaks*

Members Present:

Howard – Dolores Large

Cambridge -Beth Murguia

Woodridge – Debbie Dixon

Junior School –Gabby Joseph

High School – Lucy Duncan, Nicole Lehmann

High School Student Council – Grant Anderson, Claudeth Garcia

Parent/Business/Community Representatives – David Adelman, Sara Brouillard, Dr. Ruth Bujanda-Moore, Kathryn Dehlinger, Debbie Dixon, John Fitch, David Garcia, Brian Hamilton, Julie Hill, Margaret Judson, Audra Kerr, Tracy Maxwell, Dr. Kristen Plastino

Administration – Dr. Frank Alfaro, Dr. Kristen Ascencao, Dr. Dana Bashara, Dr. Jimmie Walker

Additional Attendees – Jenny Seger

Members Absent: Amber Brown, Christopher McDow, Jennifer Deleon, Richard Peacock, Sandra Shelton, Renee Wright

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m.

Dr. Bashara explained that membership on the DEAC is a two year term. Because all of the members were new when this district committee included SHAC and District Technology, the conclusion of their two year term will be this year. We will need ½ of the membership to stay for an additional year to get the rotation on track. Therefore, Dr. Bashara would like to hear from the membership whether they are ready to rotate off, or if they are willing to serve a third and final year. Teachers and campus representatives are encouraged to talk to their campus principals.



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II. Review of Progress

A. Campus Design Teams - Learner Profile Update

Dr. Bashara advised the committee about the progress campuses are making through their Campus Design Team initiatives to roll out the Learner Profile in each AHISD classroom. The high school and junior high are focusing on peer observations. Howard Early Childhood Center, Cambridge and Woodridge are focusing on the Profile of a Learner in meetings and team conversations.

B. 2017-18 Calendar: Semester Change

Dr. Bashara explained that an alternate calendar had been sent to principals for review regarding a change of semester end/ start dates to align with the December holiday. The campus principal's feedback is due by March and will be presented at the next DEAC meeting in April. The alternate calendar aligns the 1st semester end date prior to the holiday break. As a reminder, the District of Innovation Plan allows AHISD to have an earlier start date which could aid in the alignment of the first semester end date.

III. Learning Time

A. District of Innovation

Dr. Jimmie Walker explained to committee members some of the highlights of becoming a District of Innovation this coming school year. At this point, AHISD is working to implement some innovative practices that will require updating policies for the upcoming school year: uniform school start date, class size ratio, and probationary contracts.

Uniform school start date: Currently the students may not begin school before the 4th Monday in August. The District of Innovation Plan allows AHISD flexibility to determine the school start date based on the needs of the students and community.



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Class size ratio: AHISD must submit a waiver for classes in 4th grade and below when they exceed a class size ratio of 22 students to 1 teacher. Currently, our first grade Spanish Immersion classes are designed with 24 students in each to plan for attrition throughout fifth grade. This regulation will seek flexibility with waiver requirements for the Spanish Immersion / Dual Language first grade classrooms since becoming a District of Innovation.

Probationary Contracts: When a teacher has taught five of the last eight years in Texas, upon hire with AHISD, they are issued a Probationary contract for the first year. The flexibility will allow a probationary contract for these teachers for up to 2 years which will provide a better evaluation timeline to determine a teacher's effectiveness.

B. Policy Review

Dr. Bashara highlighted the efforts of the DEAC Academic Integrity Subcommittee on guideline revisions for the Academic Integrity and 24 Hour Code of Conduct. The subcommittee was comprised of parents, students and teachers. Their contributions were valuable in attaining feedback and in reviewing the current policies with administration. Several meetings were hosted beginning in November with administration, coaches, department chairs, legal counsel, and students to gain input and suggestions for reformatting policies. Committee members were able to review the draft Extracurricular Participation Code which was previously the 1-page 24 Hour Code of Leadership.

C. T-TESS Waiver 2017-2018

Dr. Alfaro clarified there was a new teacher evaluation system for this school year. He explained that administration, assistant principals, principals and additional leadership staff were trained to effectively utilize the new evaluation system. The previous system was referred to as PDAS. Currently T-TESS requires a formal observation for teachers every year.

AHISD is working to implement a waiver system that would allow teachers to be observed every three years if they meet certain qualifications that include: term contract status, minimum of two years employment with the district, a current TTESS evaluation that demonstrates 12 of the 16 dimensions as proficient, and a principal approval.

In addition to the T-TESS evaluation, teachers are currently observed during walk throughs which can be anywhere from 8 - 15 minutes by campus administration.



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The Google survey: Learning Time Google Form was sent prior to the meeting to your email provided. The survey is to provide affirmations, clarifications and considerations on the 3 topics discussed. Survey will be closed on Friday, February 10, 2017.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 12, at 11:30 a.m. in the High School Oaks Conference Room.