

**MINUTES OF LOCAL INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 10, 2021
12:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Cezy Collins, General Counsel
Dr. Tamekia Brown, Chief Academic Officer
Patricia Cortez, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Nancy Tovar, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools
Norma De La Rosa, President of El Paso Teachers Association
Ross Moore, President of El Paso American Federation of Teachers
Laura Strelzin Bagley, Teacher, Franklin High School
Martha Aguirre, Executive Director of Budget & External Financial Management
Michael Martinez, City Manager, Sunland Park, NM
Dr. Sarah Chavez-Gibson, Principal, Stanton Elementary School
Nancy Hanson, Principal, Logan Elementary School
Ray Adatao, El Paso Builders Association
Dow Farley, Retired Teacher
Jessica Silva, Librarian, El Paso High School
Richard Gutierrez, UTEP Professor
Mari Vanpelt, Community Member
Jonathan Childress, Community Engagement Manager, Microsoft TechSpark Program
Mike Adjemian, President of the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association
Mica Short, Vice President of Development, Paso Del Norte Community Foundation
Dr. Deborah Fetzer, Youth Education Support Services Director, Fort Bliss Liaison
Dr. Elena Izquierdo, UTEP Professor

ABSENT: Gustavo Arriaga, Lead Program Manager, Southwest Region, Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS Program

OTHERS: Vince Sheffield, Interim Superintendent
Bob Geske, Board President
Al Velarde, Board Secretary

A. Welcome

Ms. Cezy Collins, General Counsel and Dr. Tamekia Brown, Chief Academic Officer, introduced themselves and thanked all committee members for their commitment to the District of Innovation Committee. Mr. Vince Sheffield, Interim Superintendent, welcomed all committee members and thanked them for their participation.

B. Introductions

As Ms. Collins, announced each member they introduced themselves.

C. Overview of Chapter 12A of the Texas Education Code

Ms. Collins shared a PowerPoint with an overview of the renewing process and the benefits of being a District of Innovation. She provided a summary of the eligibility and requirements by the Legislature. An outline of the required steps was reviewed.

D. Role of Committee Members – Duties and Responsibilities

The committee is made up of twenty-one members, seven appointed by the Interim Superintendent and each Board Member appointed two members. Ms. Collins provided an explanation of the responsibilities of the Local Innovation Committee.

E. Discussion of Board Resolution and Parameters

Ms. Collins explained the 2015 resolution to initiate the process of the designation as a district of innovation and limitations thereto. Ms. Collins also explained the 2020 resolution to renew the District's designation as a district of innovation and limitations thereto.

F. Discussion of Current Plan and Amendment Thereto

Ms. Collins reviewed EPISD's current District of Innovation Plan. She reviewed the statutory exemptions from the Texas Education Code. An overview of prohibited exemptions was also shared.

G. Overview of Board Goals, Mission, Vision, Strategic Priorities/District Priorities, and Initiatives

Dr. Brown shared the vision of EPISD and strategic priorities. She explained declining enrollment and highlighted current District developments and upcoming plans. She also provided an overview of the current Board goals. Dr. Brown also shared a draft of the District's Strategic Plan for 2023.

H. Discussion of Timeline and Meeting Dates

The calendar and timeline of meeting dates was reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding questions in the *Chat* feature in Zoom.

I. Next Meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

DRAFT