

**MINUTES OF MEETING LOCAL INNOVATION COMMITTEE
EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 4, 2016
11:30 A.M.**

PRESENT: Leila Sarmecanic, Attorney, Rogers Morris & Grover; Cezy Collins, General Counsel EPISD; Elizabeth O'Hara, Diocese of El Paso; Scott Gray, Asst. Principal Irvin H.S.; Deborah Trexler, Youth Education Support Services Director, Ft. Bliss Liaison, and member of DEIC; Ingrid Brown, Parent; Dr. Nancy Hanson, Principal Schuster E.S.; Dr. Mike Warmack, Principal Bowie H.S.; Michael DeVine, Retired Teacher; Jaime Barcelau, Social Worker; Dr. Royce Avery, Area II Superintendent; Ross Moore, President, El Paso AFT; Lynn Gill, Principal Andress H.S.; Dr. Elena Izquierdo, UTEP; Laila Ferris, Principal Mesita; Norma De La Rosa, Teacher and President, El Paso Teacher Association/TSTA/NEA; Dr. Tamekia Brown, Executive Director Academics; Karen Blaine, Executive Director Advanced Academics & Innovation; Melanie Mullings, Parent and member of DEIC; Ivonne Durant, Deputy Superintendent Academics and School Leadership;

ABSENT: Dr. David DeMatthews, UTEP; Dana Hamilton, Parent; Amy O'Rourke, Parent

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 11:30. Leila Sarmecanic, attorney from Rogers, Morris & Grover, and Cezy Collins, EPISD General Counsel, welcomed the group. Introductions were made by the Committee Members.

2. Overview of House Bill 1842

Ms. Sarmecanic gave an overview of House Bill 1842 and a summary of Districts of Innovation.

3. Discussion of Proposed Timelines for April or May Adoption of Local Innovation Plan

Ms. Sarmecanic reviewed the two proposed timelines for adoption of a local innovation plan. The group discussed the feasibility of meeting the April and May proposed adoption dates. Concerns were raised about premature creation and adoption prior to the issuance of rules by the Texas Education Agency. It was also mentioned if a plan were to be adopted to be effective in the 2016-2017 school year, the earlier adoption date might be better. Discussion also ensued regarding the feasibility of creating a plan that included short term and long term goals and a graduated plan. The Committee decided to aim for the April adoption date, but if additional time were needed it would revert to the May adoption date.

4. Roles of Committee Members

Ms. Sarmecanic reviewed the roles of the committee members. All meetings will be posted as Board Meetings in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Board members may attend from time to time. Committee members were encouraged to seek outside input on innovations as well. Ms. Collins informed the group that minutes of all meetings would be posted on a dedicated page on the District's website. Ms. Sarmecanic and Ms. Collins informed the Committee that they were available for legal support to make sure that any proposed innovations were allowed by the new law.

5. Brainstorming Discussion of Potential Innovations to Improve Educational Outcomes

The Committee began discussion of innovations to improve educational outcomes as a group and then broke into smaller group discussions. During these sessions the Committee discussed innovations they might like to see and what portions of the Texas Education Code impeded that innovation. The Committee was also asked to consider what questions they would like to ask in a survey seeking input on potential innovation, and which District stakeholders should be sent such a survey.

The Committee reconvened as a group to summarize their discussions, which included:

- Provide a system of intervention to address absences versus the 90% rule
- Begin the school year earlier versus the Uniform School Start Date
- Address the required minutes of instruction (75,600)
- Provide additional professional development to teachers
- Facilitate more communication between parents and teachers
- T-TESS/ develop an alternative teacher appraisal system

6. **Next Meeting February 11 at 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Committee members were asked to continue thinking about innovations to improve student achievement for the next meeting and questions for a survey regarding innovation. Ms. Sarmecanic indicated she would email the group regarding the discussions and any follow-up necessary by committee members for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

DRAFT