

Instructional Services

Vision in Action (VIA)

Called Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 30, 2016



Meeting Conductors: Dr. Peggy Johnson, Dr. Charla Rudd and Dr. Linda Volz.

Members Present: Chris Borland, Jennifer Chaudoin, Mareau Crain, Cynthia Denmark, Lisa Drafahl, Ginny Ellis, Ann Garrett, Sandra Gibson, Jennifer Gillen, Alex Gomez, Kerry Halstead, Dr. Peggy Johnson, Derrick Keller, Chuck Klander, Karye Maine, Veronica Olvera, Kristi Rizo, Dr. Charla Rudd, Sondra Russell, Lisa Seawright, Dr. Sharon Shields, Shaunte' Stewart, Dr. Linda Volz, April Wagner, and Marilyn Wilson.

Members Absent: Todd Gooden, Allison Hughes, Dr. Jan Hungate, Dr. Terri Patterson, Justin Peebles, Bill Terry, and Lorenz Villa.

Other(s) Present: Lori Lang, Recorder of Minutes.

WELCOME

Dr. Volz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Explanation of District of Innovation

Dr. Volz used a handout that explains the meaning of a "District of Innovation" (DOI). The concept allows Texas schools flexibility for exemptions of required mandates. These exemptions would be in place for five years.

Explanation of the Work

Dr. Rudd provided an explanation of the work needed. We are seeking more flexibility to meet the needs of our students. A handout of the first DOI draft along with drafts of the proposed 2017-18 Calendar were provided in the meeting packet. The committee reviewed the documents and considered the mandates the district is requesting to be waived. The committee worked in smaller groups.

- The state allows districts to address that some mandates in the Texas Education Code hamper abilities to help students to be successful.
 - Rationale must be provided as to why we want the exemption.
- We looked at how other districts waived some of the mandates.
- The "X"s represent the mandates LVISD is considering as exemptions.
- The draft calendar includes dates for early releases, data meetings, report cards, progress reports, school holidays, teacher workdays, assessment days, and data meetings to determine professional development data needs.
- Pages 4 and 14, Fiscal Management: Long range energy plan to reduce consumption of electric energy by five percent – Older facilities struggle to do this by the very nature of the building's age.
- Pages 4 and 13-14, Campus Behavior Coordinator – The district seeks relief from this code because principals and assistant principals already serve in this capacity so therefore, is not necessary.

Group Assignments

Dr. Johnson encouraged the committee to focus on the wording, not so much on what is legal or local.

- Make sure your notes are legible.
- Get clarification on anything you are unsure of so you can work effectively.
- Dialog and discuss with your group so that you will be the informed person on your campus.

Group Activity – Each group discussed each mandate marked with an "X", and documented feedback.

- Pages 4 and 10-11, First Day of Instruction/Last Day of School – The first day of school cannot be earlier than the fourth Monday in August. We want flexibility in starting and ending school. The last day would be before Memorial Day. Bad weather days will also be teacher work days.
 - Start the school day early and end early.

- Starting the first day earlier will allow the district to equalize the two semesters.
- Summer school could run May 29th through June 21st, for 16 days of instruction.
- On a district average, all campuses meet the 75,600 minutes requirement.

Share Out

- Ms. Gibson – Pages 2 and 5-6, District-level and Site-based Decision Making.
 - Keep flexible so as not to be locked into a definite decision.
 - The high school has an improvement plan for campus improvement; locked in for two years.
 - There should be a consistent BE plan district-wide.
- Mr. Borland – Pages 5 and 11-12, School Day Interruptions – The group did not focus on announcements but what constitutes advisory versus tutorial interruptions.
 - Limit all call announcements to show the value of instructional time.
 - Picture Day is a must for interruptions.
- Ms. Seawright – Pages 2 and 6-7 Certification of Educators – The group supports local control by the district.
 - Non-certified teachers may be okay for elective courses but not for core.
 - Concern for when new teachers get first pay check.
 - Dr. Shields stated that allowances are already in place.
- Mr. Keller – Pages 3 and 9-10, Planning and Preparation Time – Removing the 45 minutes conference time would be difficult at high school. Teachers already take papers home to grade which would increase that time. Teachers get only two to three class periods of grading done during one conference period.
 - Dr. Shields stated that we do not want to take away from teachers what they need nor from parents. She advocates for teachers and parents. Teachers give liberally of their time and resources already. Teachers appreciate structure with planning times, etc.
 - The request to remove this mandate will be removed.
- Ms. Chaudoin – Pages 3 and 9-10, Minimum Service Required of 187 work days – The first day for staff to return is scheduled for August 7th. Child care is an issue for August 7th. Reducing the number of contract days by two would help.
 - The district cannot justify reducing the number of days without reducing salary because the district is already at the top of the pay scale.
 - The two days can be moved to a different part of the calendar with the option to remove Veterans Day and the Monday after Good Friday as holidays and make them work days.
 - These two days were scheduled as off days to help with teacher morale. It's hard on teachers without having a break.
 - For teachers in the district, can we provide child care for their children if they are students grades PK to 4 enrolled in the district? We don't want to lose the purpose behind the PD days.
 - If so, the students must be housed on one campus. They would be provided with breakfast and lunch.
 - Provide the same service on August 3 and 4.
 - We want campus input prior to finalizing the calendar. We do appreciate the multiple options voiced and will capture some of these proposals.
 - This is Stage One. This document will be revised to include your input.
 - The DOI will be taken to the Superintendent's Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Board of Trustees.
- Please make sure the recorded note form is left by your group.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 10:50 am. The meetings for the remainder of the year are listed on the agenda. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2017.