

**Irving Independent School District  
District of Innovation District Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 2017**

The Irving ISD District of Innovation District Advisory Committee met on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Laina McDonald, Division Director for Student Support Services.

Members in attendance: Dr. Andre Smith, Brian Parham, Curtis Mauricio, Jaime Mendoza, Janice Houston, LeighAnn McNeese, Jorge Acosta, Karen Zeske, Laurie Gilcrease, Lynette Bigfoot, Mary Richarte, Peggy Yard, Prana Thoppil, Jason Curry, Ruth Pervis, Sara Darden, Sarah Stegall, Stephanie Strike, Sandra Vela, and Dr. Adam Grinage.

Dr. McDonald shared the meeting agenda with the committee members. She shared with the committee that the goal was to develop a local plan of innovation that would allow the district to more effectively educate our students. She then provided materials to the committee members that consisted of an overview of the DoI process, laws from which districts may exempt themselves through the DoI process, as well as sample plans for review.

Dr. McDonald organized the committee into groups and asked them to review each of the following areas:

- Uniform School Start Date
- Minimum Minutes of Instruction
- Class Size Ratio
- 90 Percent Attendance Rule
- Student Discipline Provisions
- Teacher Certification
- Teacher Contracts
- Teacher Benefits
- Teacher Appraisal System
- Site-Based Decision Making

Each group discussed the areas and determined advantages, disadvantages, feasibility and impact on students and teachers. Each group then shared out their thoughts for further discussion. The discussion points for each area are as follows:

Uniform School Start Date:

- Move up start date so we can finish first semester before break
- Can move back to save money
- Use more PD days (student holidays) throughout the year
- Would not want to add two extra weeks in August – adds minutes at secondary we don't need; shortens summer break
- Might have to move teacher training to July if we moved school up a few weeks
- Release days could be helpful to teachers
- Start earlier and build in PD days (looking ahead)
- Changing the date- how would that affect state testing/SSI-maybe less time for summer school and intervention.
- Moving start date from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> would allow for a calendar that is very similar to the current one (which is very popular)

#### Minimum Minutes of Instruction:

- Flexibility with PD and PreK along with release days
- Opting out just for PreK- when you opt out elsewhere it affects the funding for the district
- Worth exploring for the over age/under credited students
- Explore for ½ day/ night school program that could still be submitted for funding

#### Class Size Ratio:

- Would not like to consider exemption out of 22:1 for K-4 grades
- Would just make it easier “administratively” because waivers wouldn’t have to be submitted
- Concern that it would lead to higher class numbers because it would be “easier” to do
- Don’t see positive impact for students or teachers

#### The 90 Percent Attendance Rule (Compulsory attendance still applies):

- Helps to improve overage/under credit student; concerns about the ADA
- How is it moderated? Transparency could be an issue
- Will “opting out” be an issue for students that do have attendance issues? (Principal currently has the discretion to alter requirements with current plan)
- Districts do have the ability to consider extenuating circumstances

#### Student-Discipline Provisions (with some key provisions):

- Flexibility in allowing for a collaborative approach on each campus
- Would allow for more than one Discipline Coordinator which is very needed for schools

#### Teacher Certification (except required by federal law):

- Would be beneficial due to the flexibility that would be allowed to work with industry certified instructors in certain areas of study (i.e. CTE and dual-credit).
- Consider exemption for bilingual education and/or advanced math and science courses. Would want to require eventual certification (maybe a year or two to get TEA certification)
- Concern that the flexibility might decrease the pedagogy level of teachers at elementary campuses. Would want to explore limiting the subject areas that were eligible for the flexible certifications to certain subjects and grade levels.
- Concern with how it would affect stipends.

#### Teacher Contracts:

- Flexibility could possibly allow for 2- or 3-year probationary contract for all newcomers to the district. (5 of 8 teachers)

#### Teacher Benefits:

- No exemptions discussed
- Teacher planning period requirements (450 minutes/10days), daily 30-minute duty free lunch are areas that will not be considered for exemption or modification

Teacher Appraisal System:

- Concern with “student growth measure”: What do we use? What is consistent?
- Opt out, but put in plan to develop growth measure over time. Define what “growth” is for measurement. Would not want to develop a tool that would lead to additional testing.

Site Based Decision Making:

- No exemption is being considered.

The committee will consider these discussion points and be prepared for further discussion.  
Committee was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2017.