

## MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE

### EL CAMPO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 21, 2017

6:00 pm

The District of Innovations Committee for the El Campo Independent School District met on September 21, 2017, at Northside Elementary Cafeteria, 2610 Meadow Lane, El Campo, Texas.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kelly Waters, Dolores Trevino, Cecil Davis, Carolyn Gordon, David Bright, Tana Martin, Amy Araguz, Keith Beal, Cami Berglund, Kassie Cerny, Mauri Couey, Kim Couvillion, Rebecca Crowell, Rich DuBroc, Melissa Guttenberger, Penny Hiltbold, Stephanie Jensen, Amanda Klatt, Kate Manriquez, Meredith Martin, Tisha McCalister, Sheri Mollnar, Laura Motal, LeAnn Pelley, James Priesmeyer, Amy Rod, Alicia Stary, Linda Supak, Gilbert Escamilla, and BJ Swenson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Greg Anderson, Suzanne Brandl, Debbie Chappell, JJ Croix, Mark Freeman, Travis Hogg, Jane Radley, and Vanessa Rod.

**COMMITTEE WELCOME:** Kelly Waters

**DISTRICT OF INNOVATION (DOI) INTRODUCTION:** Dolores Treviño, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, began by taking a count of all committee members who were familiar with what District of Innovation meant. It stated that the DOI committee members might be required to meet several times within the next few months in order to meet the December deadline for the District's DOI Plan. The Committee Members were encouraged to visit the school district's website for information regarding DOI meeting agendas and minutes if they are unable to attend a meeting date.

**DISTRICT OF INNOVATION POWERPOINT PRESENTATION:** Mrs. Trevino presented a PowerPoint Presentation to the committee in which they were taken more in-depth regarding the District of Innovation process. There was a brief explanation of the requirements and benefits of becoming a District of Innovation. In accordance with House Bill 1842 – The School District must meet standard on accountability, which El Campo ISD has. It also allows the district the flexibility to be exempt from certain laws stated in Texas Education Code. The term allowed for a district to be a DOI is five years. During the five years, the process allows for the district to edit the plans if needed. Examples of allowable TEC exemptions were as follows: school year start and end days, the length of the school day, and the ninety percent attendance rule. There was also a further explanation of areas not open to flexibility which included State assessments, State accountability, and also the fact that El Campo ISD must employ certified Bilingual teachers.

- **PROCESS TO BECOME A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION:** Mrs. Trevino explained the process in order to become a District of Innovation. She informed the committee that the District Wide Education Improvement Committee (DWEIC) met in June of 2017, and information was shared with them regarding the possibility of becoming a DOI in order to get feedback. It was such a great success that the committee typed up a request, signed and presented it to the board in hopes they would consider moving forward with the District of Innovation process. In July of 2017, there was a Public Hearing, and the Board of Trustees were asked to appoint a committee which is the ECISD DOI Committee.
- **ECISD WHY'S:** Mrs. Trevino reviewed the reasons why being a District of Innovation would benefit ECISD. One is the flexibility of the district's calendar. As of right now, ECISD must follow the laws set

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in place which states that a school district must begin the school year no earlier than the fourth Monday in August. By becoming a District of Innovation, the district would be able to balance out the semesters into “real nine weeks grading periods,” as well as being able to start and end the school year earlier. Also, by becoming a District of Innovation, the district would not have to require all Career and Technical Education applicants to be certified in teaching. This past year, for example, there were several job openings left without applicants due to the teacher certification requirement. For example: If an applicant is certified in a field of study in which the district has an opening for, they would not be required to also have a certification in teaching.

### REVIEW OF HANDOUTS

- [DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION EXPLAINED ARTICLE](#): Mrs. Trevino asked the committee to read the article to familiarize themselves with the District of Innovation process.
- [CURRENT/FUTURE CALENDARS](#): Mrs. Trevino showed the committee the current academic calendar as well as a calendar for the next two years to inform the committee that unless our district transitions into a DOI the start dates for the next few years will be late start dates.
- [CHAPTER 102. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS](#)
- [DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION TEC Codes-Defined](#)
- [DISTRICT OF INNOVATION FAQ](#)
- [FIGURE 19 TAC § 102.1307\(d\)](#): Mrs. Trevino presented the Committee with an example of the required documentation the Texas Education Agency requires for DOI. The Committee will need to, over the next few months, determine a plan of action that is beneficial to El Campo ISD.

**GOAL:** Mrs. Trevino informed the Committee members that the main goal of the committee for the first meeting is to narrow the focus of the plan.

### ACTIVITY:

- **VOTING:** Posters were placed along the walls with Texas Education Code (TEC) labeled on them. Each Committee member was asked to review the handout District of Innovation TEC Codes-Defined in order to select the codes they felt would be the most beneficial in the Plan. Each Committee member was provided five green dots to use as a voting tool. Mrs. Trevino made the committee aware that any columns left without votes would be taken off the table for the final plan of action. The results of the voting [CLICK HERE](#).
- **QUESTIONS:** The committee was encouraged to write down any question regarding the TEC codes on posters provided on the tables. Questions presented [CLICK HERE](#).

**Future meeting agenda:** The committee will begin looking more in-depth into the TEC codes with the highest votes.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES:** The Committee decided to meet every other week rotating between Monday’s and Thursday’s so that all committee members can participate. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday**,

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**October 2, 2017, at 6:00 pm** location to be determined, and an email will be sent out to inform all committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**\*LINKED DOCUMENTS**