



MINUTES

Steering Committee

1/9/2017 1:00 PM

Welcome & Introductions

Team members were introduced, welcomed, and thanked for their participation on this committee.

Outcomes

- Establish a shared understanding of the District of Innovation legislation and PISD Strategic plan goals
- Review proposed timeline for the committee's work
- Draft possible areas of exemption

Overview of HB 1842

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in spring 2015 and provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. This designation allows most flexibilities that are available to Texas open enrollment Charter Schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovative plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A and Texas Education Agency (TEA) rules. Districts of Innovation may be exempted from some state statutes and will have greater local control, increased flexibility, and empowerment to innovate and think differently. The TASB Districts of Innovation handout was distributed.

Strategic Plan

The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan was distributed to committee members and reviewed.

District of Innovation Process

In August, a core team was organized and met to review HB 1842 and reached consensus on a recommendation to the Board of Trustees expressing the desire to explore HB 1842 further. On September 27, 2016, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to explore and consider a designation of a District of Innovation. In October and November, the core team met to gain a greater understanding of HB 1842 and explore potential exemption areas. At the Board of Trustees meeting on November 29, 2016, a public hearing was held to explain and discuss the possibility of utilizing HB 1842. Following the public hearing, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the District of Innovation Committee. This committee met on January 9, 2017. Information was presented to the committee regarding the timeline and process that will be followed in accordance with guidelines. The next steps in the process include: development of the plan, posting the plan online for a 30 day review, notifying the Commissioner of our intent to vote, conducting a public meeting, presenting the plan to DEC and the Board of Trustees, and, if approved, notifying the Commissioner and updating appropriate policies.

Plan Development

Committee discussions focused on these areas:

- Certification requirements for CTE teachers as these positions frequently are not part of traditional teacher preparation programs.

- Issue two one-year probationary contracts (in lieu of one) for all teachers new to PISD that have taught 5 out of the last 8 years in another Texas public school district.
- In lieu of T-TESS, explore alternative assessment for teachers not in a traditional classroom setting and eliminate the implementation of the growth measure portion of T-TESS for all teachers.
- Expand Campus Behavior Coordinator role to include all administrators to enhance effective communication and building relationships with students and parents.
- Allow students to enroll in English and Math courses that meet their needs versus following the mandatory course sequencing timeframe.
- Develop a school calendar that eliminates the requirement that the first day of school may not be held prior to the fourth Monday of August.
- Currently, a waiver must be submitted to TEA if class sizes in Kindergarten through 4th grade exceed a ratio of 22 students to 1 teacher. The intent of the district is to maintain the ratio, but in unique circumstances where we may exceed the ratio, submitting the waiver would not be required.
- The Minimum Attendance statute requires students attend class 90% of the school days the class is offered in order to earn credit. With innovative focuses such as a Virtual School, requesting an exemption would allow our district to focus on demonstrating mastery versus fulfilling “seat time.”

Goal of Design Team

To create a plan that identifies:

- Area of exemption we are seeking,
- Specific TEC statute (s) impacted,
- Rational for seeking this exemption, (*What the current statute is, how it impedes our district, and the advantages to our district by seeking this area of exemption*) and
- Correlation to the strategic plan

Person (s) Designated to Take Minutes

Each design team will take minutes and email them to Darla Massey. (dmassey-jones@pasadenaisd.org) Design Team minutes will be posted on the District of Innovation webpage.

Members in Attendance at Meeting, Date/Time Next Meeting Scheduled, & Time Adjourned

Members in Attendance:

Melissa Allen, Becky Benner, Joyce Boyd, Edissa Canales, Edie Cantu, Lashondra Evans, Steve Fleming, Steve Fullen, Alyta Harrell, Karen Hickman, Karen McCarley, Troy McCarley, Amber Morton, Keith Palmer, Rhonda Parmer, John Piscacek, DeeAnn Powell, Angela Stallings, Donna Summers, Carolina Turrubiates, Michael Van Loenen, Diane Wheeler, Beverly Whitton, Patricia Wright, Sarah Wroblecki, Jodie Kennemer, Darla Massey

Next Meeting:

February 2, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. (Boardroom at Central Administration Building)

Meeting was adjourned 2:45 p.m.