

**Minutes of the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC)  
April 5, 2023**

The District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) of the North East Independent School District met on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 in Room 614 of the Richard A. Middleton Education Center, 8961 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, Texas.

The following DEIC members were present:

Rebecca Gentry	Symone Samson	Jessica Esslinger	Karen Martinez
Selena Valdez	Cynthia Dubose	Vanessa Woodworth	Jacob Collazo
Amy Kamata	Marco Garza	Sara Patterson	Maria Garcia-Rios
Diane Hartung	Nikki Young	Terri Sanchez	Julie Magadance
Bonnie Cabeza	Sonia Moreno-Rogers		

Presenters:

- BranDe Merriman, Director, Performance and Planning
- Dr. Esmeralda Munoz, Executive Director, Learning Support Services
- Celeste Lafuente-Garza, Senior Director, Learning Support Services
- Jennifer Gutierrez, Executive Director, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction
- Ravae Shaeffer, Executive Director, Secondary Curriculum and Instruction
- Tom Johnson, Executive Director, Technology Services

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Diane Hartung, Chairperson, called the DEIC to order at 4:31 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the January 11, 2023 meeting were reviewed by the DEIC members present.

After minutes were reviewed, Ms. Hartung, Chair, asked the committee if they have a motion for approval. Julie Magadance moved to approve the minutes. Maria Garcia-Rios seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously as presented.

**III. Accountability Update**

The Chairperson introduced BranDe Merriman, Director of Performance and Planning, who will give a presentation on Accountability Updates. She presented a PowerPoint on the the STAAR redesign. All students will be taking the test on-line and the set up will not just be multiple choice. The state is making the test more user-friendly and relatable for the students. This version of the new test has been rolled out this year after teams of leadership members conducted training and set-up according to their campus's needs. Graduation and CCMR points have been adjusted with new cut points.

With the new cut points school scores will initially drop across the state. Super groups have been created by combining racial/ethnic student groups. All of the changes should help close the gaps between students and campuses. Teachers will get preliminary scores before they get the final test scores. They will be rated under 3 different determinations: likely did not pass; zone of uncertainty; likely passed. The scores will not be in until September of the following school year. The timeline will be shorter for the following school year. Questions were answered throughout the presentation.

#### **IV. Summer Programs**

Celeste Lafuente-Garza, Senior Director of Learning Support Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Summer Programs for 2023. She went over the different programs that are available for primary and secondary students. Special programs throughout the district were highlighted. For primary those include: Pre K-Kinder Enrichment, Bilingual Program, Newcomer and Extended School Year Program. For secondary those include: STEM, Humanities, LitCamp, Secondary Newcomer, Algebra I Bootcamp, Literacy Bootcamp and Reading and Math Skills Bootcamp. Date that registration starts were given. At the end of the presentation the floor was opened for discussion.

#### **V. Looking Ahead**

Mr. Jarrett had a project for DEIC members before the final presentation. Members were broken up into 4 groups and asked 4 different questions.

1. What are we currently doing well in NEISD?
2. What are some things we are not doing very well?
3. What are some immediate things we need to start doing in our district?
4. What are some immediate things we need to stop doing in our district?

Members were given time to work with their groups. Responses were written on post-it notes and then placed on posters for each question.

Priority responses were given by each group to the questions.

##### Question 1:

- Communication from campuses to parents – emails, Smore, phone messages, social media
- Curriculum and instruction across grade levels
- Providing opportunities for all types of learners: ALE, GT, Magnets, EB, Fine Arts, Ctech
- High quality teachers and employees

##### Question 2:

- Dual Language + SPED + Requirements to maintain dual enrollment.
- Communication between departments and from campuses to central office and back
- Systematically gathering through an effective platform all parent and teacher voice
- Enforcing drug and safety issues
- Properly scheduling make-up exams in high school due to weather cancellations days.
- Using counselors as trained mental health professionals to address increased needs of students. They are always being pulled for other duties/activities.

Question 3:

- Evaluate and strategically abandon outdated practices, programs etc.
- Pay teachers every 2 weeks.
- Staff raise, pay paras more to include all support staff including police, custodial and cafeteria staff.
- Understand child development milestones.
- Typing proficiency/electives
- Technology education
- Communication with community (inside and out) of NEISD

Question 4:

- Reactive thinking-believing that an answer now is a policy now is better than a thoughtful and longer time coming.
- Stop taking counselors from seeing students for duty, CTC etc...
- Stop Red Ribbon week for ES. Counselors work on it and it doesn't give an anti-drug lesson the kids can understand. Wearing PJs one day to show support doesn't teach them anything.
- Stop talking in a language that the community doesn't understand.

Mr. Jarrett ended the activity by asking the members what the one thing is that you have to have with the students for education to work. Answer is it is all about the relationship you have with those students. That is something that matters the most to students.

The Curriculum and Instruction Executive Directors gave a PowerPoint presentation on Looking Ahead 2023-2024.

Jennifer Gutierrez, ED for primary C&I, started the presentation. She discussed the NEISD Balanced Scorecard. The extended school year calendar was talked about and what they can do to feedback and suggestions.

Ravae Shaeffer, ED for secondary C&I, discussed professional learning. We want to make sure that what we are providing is what is needed. Survey data is used in maintaining this.

Jennifer Gutierrez mentioned a new support center for our district. There will be more information coming.

Esmeralda Munoz, ED for LSS, discussed CCMR and how different members on campus help with success by preparing the students for when they graduate and leave our district. She discussed the different programs that are available for NEISD students.

Tom Johnson, ED for Technology Services, presented on our technology programs. He highlighted our schools that have participated in VEX Robotics competition. 3 of our teams went to the state level competition. All students can now check out and take home technology such as iPads.

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Jarrett thanked everyone for their time, intelligence and patience while working as a member of DEIC. He also announced that this will be the last meeting of the school year.

Chairperson Hartung thanked everyone. She then requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terri Sanchez gave the motion. Vanessa Woodward seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.