



## District Educational Improvement Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 · 4:30 PM · *via* Zoom Conference

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- I. Welcome (5 minutes) Dr. Ashley Stewart

Dr. Ashley Stewart opened the meeting at 4:30 PM and reviewed the agenda for the meeting, explaining that we would again forego sub-committees and would instead review the impact of COVID-19 on Boerne ISD. The minutes were reviewed, and since there were no corrections, were accepted and will be posted to the DEIC website after this meeting. Dr. Stewart reminded the Committee that all our conversations and meetings are structured around our District Scorecard and the four pillars: Student Success, Customer Service, Human Capital, and Fiscal Responsibility.
  
- II. Purpose of DEIC (5 minutes) Ms. Tami Charest

Ms. Charest reminded the committee of the purpose of site-based decision-making committees, and reviewed that the goals and objectives of the committees District-wide were approved by the Board in a previous meeting. We are currently working on reviewing incoming data, determining where we are as far as meeting our goals, and determining what we need to do to reach those goals.
  
- III. Review of district-level information (40 minutes)
  - A. Strategic Plan Update - Year 1 Dr. Ashley Stewart

Dr. Stewart explained the year one review scheduled for the Spring was rescheduled due to COVID-19, but the group met virtually on November 11, 2020, to review Action Plan progress. At that meeting, plan owners shared the being made. The [progress graph](#) shows five action plans are complete, with great progress on the remaining. The entire plan will be reviewed in the Fall.
  - B. COVID-19 Update Dr. Tommy Price
    1. Update on Numbers Dr. Tommy Price

We'll finish a full semester next week! We have 19 active COVID cases in the District - the lowest since before Halloween. A spike due to Thanksgiving is expected. Quarantines are due to home and social exposure, not school-related. CDC announced a reduction in days required for quarantine. We will review after break and adjust if needed.
    2. Student Success Ms. Larissa Flores

Ms. Flores reviewed Fall interim test data (this was an optional test). The test is a good indicator of where students are currently. Our students are making substantial progress. There are some opportunities for growth: Staying on pace with scope and sequence using Common Formative

Assessments. We actively analyze and act on data to drive instructional changes, and are currently focusing on 3rd grade reading and math, 6th grade reading, and high school algebra 1. We've learned several lessons due to the Spring closures and subsequent virtual learning. There are instructional challenges, including having to re-design lessons to address learning gaps from the prior grade and ensure current instruction is aligned with the level of rigor needed for student expectations. In reading, students are struggling with stamina and focus on comprehension for longer periods of time. In math, it goes back to reading. Students struggle with reading problems for deep comprehension and recalling math facts. While there are significant gaps, data and teacher feedback indicate that students are making progress.

3. Technology Distribution Ms. Patti Holub

Ms. Holub shared that BISD deployed over 600 laptops for teachers, instructional coaches, TAs teaching courses, principals, assistant principals, nurses, and librarians at the beginning of the year. 2,600 Chromebooks were delivered to schools. In addition, Google Enterprise, ScreenCastify, and GoGuardian have been deployed. Operation Connectivity was initiated with the intent of allowing students to learn from their homes. The State offered discounted pricing for bulk orders and help with reimbursements for purchases made on/after May 21, 2020. With the discounts and TEA matching, BISD's portion for the 3,000 Chromebooks, 120 Carts, and 1,400 hotspots was \$746,941.20 of the total cost of \$1,108,171.20. Legacy elementary schools are receiving updated technology, too. We have qualified to get about \$500,000 to offset the expense of the spring order. BISD has also provided earbud style mics/headphones, ordered Juno mic systems, and has upgraded the networks at the high schools and worked to upgrade internet bandwidth.

4. The Well Ms. Lesa Pritchard

Ms. Lesa Pritchard introduced this new service provided by Whole Child Services at the Academy. Wellness services for parents, students, and staff including art therapy, yoga, individual/family/couples counseling, ESL services, RISE Recovery substance abuse counseling, and a wellness class in addition to providing college and career awareness activities. Information on The Well may be found on [their website](#) and a monthly newsletter is also distributed by Communications.

5. Budget Impact Mr. Wesley Scott, Ms. Tish Grill

Mr. Wesley Scott discussed how the COVID-19 issue has affected the budget. When the budget was adopted in June, it conservatively

estimated the average daily attendance (ADA). Unfortunately, our ADA has come in significantly under estimations. In a Chapter 49 recapture district, that is a dangerous place. When property values increase and attendance stays the same or goes down, it can result in a significant amount owed to State. As a result, we are looking at the budget and are making pretty deep cuts as far as goods and services and asking all to make at 15% cut District-wide for this school year.

Shawn Vaughan asked whether there is anything from a legislative standpoint that will help aid in attendance, with e-learning being able to contribute to e-learning? Any news on kids returning to school next semester? Any marketing efforts in the community? Dr. Stewart will address this in the next agenda item. Dr. P said right now, it's just guesswork. Austin is still trying to figure things out. This is the first year public schools have been allowed to do e-learning. We're not sure if we'll be able to offer it next year; that's still to be determined by the legislature. We do have a committee reaching out to parents. The [Insider](#) is meant to show people what's going on in the District and highlighting our safe learning conditions. We encourage people to come back to in-person learning. Mr. Scott did clarify and say that we are able to count e-learning students' attendance.

6. Project Return to Learn Dr. Ashley Stewart

TEA has identified criteria that identify which students should be brought back to in-person instruction. We completed the attestation after identifying students who would meet the criteria, and began contacting parents regarding cancellation of remote learning. Re-entry plans are being created, and there is a process for those who disagree and want to remain in e-learning. As of the time of the meeting, there are around 2,000 e-learners - some are in and out, some have chosen e-learners. We have over 300 students who have withdrawn to homeschool, and 13 of them are planning to return to BISD. We are seeing a move back to in-person learning in the District and hope to continue to see increases.

Mr. Vaughn asked for clarification about how parents are being contacted. Dr. Stewart explained that we did identify students who met TEA's criteria. We then reached out by phone to all parents.

Ms. Elene Hillje asked about Comal having open enrollment, and whether BISD would consider doing that to increase ADA. Dr. P has used that

method in previous districts, but it likely would not work here due to existing building capacities.

Another question was asked about cameras being on. Dr. Price and Ms. Holub explained that having cameras on in e-learning is an expectation in the e-learning agreement. A device with a camera is required for any e-learner.

C. Toy Drive & Longevity Stipends Dr. Tommy Price

Dr. Price shared that the second Cookies & Cocoa event was successful. The Board established it as a thank you to our community. While it looked different, it was good! The District Christmas Card was unveiled, and Erin Beck had the winning design. More than 1,200 toys were collected and we had lots of participation while following COVID guidelines. Communications will share bits of performances with all soon.

IV. Subcommittees (10 minutes)

A. 20-21 Calendar Overage Minutes Usage Dr. Ashley Stewart

Earlier this year, the Board approved increasing operational minutes 10 minutes/day, increasing the overage days from 4 to 8. We have not had to use the overage minutes, and a committee convened to consider how best to provide relief to staff and students, especially during this challenging time. The committee will recommend updating the calendar to use four of the overage minutes to create student holidays on January 6 and 7, February 12, and March 5 (for teachers, one PD, three work days). This will go to the Board on Monday.

B. 21-22 Calendar Committee Update Dr. Ashley Stewart

The committee met and created 8 viable calendars, then narrowed it down to 4. These 4 were sent to multiple groups for feedback, and it was narrowed down to 2 options. As of today, Calendar A has roughly 72% of the vote in K12 insight.

V. Upcoming dates and topics

After reviewing upcoming meeting dates, the meeting was adjourned a few minutes before 5:30 PM.

A. February 16, 2021, via Zoom, Topics TBA

B. April 20, 2021, via Zoom, Topics TBA