

BRECKENRIDGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
2007-2008

MINUTES:

The Breckenridge Independent School District Improvement Committee met on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 4:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the School Administration Building, 212 North Miller, Breckenridge, Texas.

The following committee members were present:

Connie Martin	Linda Sims	Dwayne Dove
Marlene Coplen	Roberta Brown	Christy Finn
Vince Moore	David Brownrigg	Tori Williams
Molly Peterson	Beverly Olson	Hallee Pesch

Those not present were as follows: Bryan Dieterich, Kathey Collinsworth, Robert Burchett, Tracy Blackshear, Kendra Cornett, Derinda Holland, Shannon Kingery, Jeff Fleenor, Deborah Gonzales, Sharron Kitchens, Susan Shortes

Welcome and Committee Training: Mrs. Linda Sims, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, brought the meeting to order and welcomed members.

Planning: The committee had discussed the 2008-2009 calendar at the last meeting. Each committee member was asked to review the working calendar, seek input from others, and bring back suggestions. Several suggestions were made prior to the meeting and Mrs. Sims had prepared a second version based on input that she had received. Suggestions from the committee included having a second parent conference day in February. They asked that the District early release of students at 1:00 p.m. on the two parent conference days so that conferences would not extend into the evening hours. Mrs. Sims shared with the committee that the district was looking at having one of the three comp. days as an extended day four times a year rather than having that comp day prior to the beginning of school. She sited that there are always needed staff development during the year and currently there is no time to complete the required training. It would mean for teachers that they would have to complete only two summer staff development days instead of three in the summer. Committee members were again asked to share information with other community members, parents and school staff in hopes of finalizing the calendar at the April meeting.

The committee heard a report from the School Health Advisory Committee meeting. At the regular January Board meeting the Trustees approved a proposal to all the SHAC committee to update the current sex-education curriculum. The SHAC committee reviewed the "Wait Training" program and intends to research other programs before bringing a proposal to the Board.

Texas Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 530 that requires districts to annually administer physical assessments for all students enrolled in grades 3-12 once a year beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. BISD sent Shade Boulware and Barbara Collinsworth to be trained as trainers for other staff members needed to conduct the evaluations. Boulware, Collinsworth and the secondary principals are working on a plan to complete the assessments in April, 2008.

Mrs. Sims touched on the recent concerns about a “New BISD Dress Code”. According to Mrs. Sims the campuses are preparing to look at the current dress code to address any problems that have arisen this year. In doing so, several dress codes from other districts are received and discussed. At this time BISD does not have a new dress code; however, revisions to the current code will be made in time to inform parents prior to purchasing school clothes for next year. Sims stated that if there were to be any drastic changes to the dress code, parents would have the opportunity to have input. The district is dedicated to do what is in the best interest of the students to provide them a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

Mrs. Martin addressed the number of parent and community concerns she had received over the recent UIL alignment. She enlightened the committee on the procedures involved in filing for a change in that decision. The chances of being able to have this changed were highly improbable. The UIL uses student count to determine a district’s eligibility. Mrs. Martin stated that all students must be counted with the exception of those students who have multiple disabilities. The appeal process included notifying the UIL of a mistake in our student count, which was not the case. Were there evidence of that, we would wait for a hearing to be scheduled. The next step would be to request permission for us to withdraw from other districts in our alignment, which is unlikely. Finally, if all of that were in place, we would need to request of other districts alignments that we be able to join them, which again, is very unlikely. BISD has decided that though we are much smaller than the other member districts, we are confident that our team will step up to the challenge and we pledge to them our full support.

Budget: Roberta Brown, BISD Business Manager, provided the committee a Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2008. She went over the report with the committee and explained current revenue, expenditures, encumbrances, and other information that is pertinent to District finances.

Curriculum and Instruction: Linda Sims informed the committee concerning the monthly walk-through that is conducted on campuses throughout the district by the entire administrative team. The positive outcomes include teachers knowing that what they do in the classroom is important to all of us. They know that every staff member is a part of a team and that the academic success of the students at BISD is the team’s primary focus.

Special State and Federal Program Information: BISD received the Notification of Grant Award on the OEYP summer school funding. Students who are failing or are in jeopardy of failing will qualify to attend summer school. Included in this number will be

the students in third, fifth and eighth grades who must pass one or more identified portions of the TAKS Test to be promoted to the next grade level.

Staffing Patterns: Though it is too early to anticipate openings for the 2008-2009 school year, Mrs. Martin and other administrators will be compiling list of those who plan to retire or move out of the district. Positions will be filled as needed.

Staff Development: Around the first of March, needs assessments will be sent to the staff on every campus to identify staff development needs. Several trainings are required by the state each year. Some of those include CPR, AED, Crisis Intervention updates, bus driver training, and others. Mrs. Sims stated that teams of teachers will be working on building a scope and sequence for science and math this summer. The focus of the curriculum department will be to align the science and math curriculum across the district and this is the first step in accomplishing that task. Other staff development opportunities are available in the district, at Region 14 and through other educational resources.

Technology: Dwayne Dove gave the District Technology Report. Several staff members have just recently returned from TCEA 2008, which is the technology convention in Austin. Mr. Dove stated that it is very beneficial for staff members to attend this convention because they are more aware of what is available and they learn how to integrate new technologies into their teaching. Teachers who are chosen to attend come back to the district excited about and ready to apply what they have learned.

In a discussion of technology updates, Mr. Dove told the committee that contractors from Region 14 were on site to install the 80 foot Wireless WAN tower. This tower will connect to the 100MBs Internet connection from Region 14. He also discussed the technology involvement in the physical education assessment program. He recently completed technology training concerning the FitnessGram software that will be used to document assessment results for TEA. Software has already been installed at North and South Elementary. Junior High and High School will be loaded within the week.

This is year eleven of E-Rate. The BISD had received \$60,213.15 in E-Rate discounts for the 2008 school year. Family Access continues to be successful. Mr. Dove stated that we would like for more parents to utilize this tool. He told the committee that BISD is considering partnering with Lovejoy ISD in a technology grant opportunity. The grant hopefully, will be a total emersion grant that would provide a specified group whatever technology is available. It would also leave the door open for receiving funding if the grant is offered the next year. We are waiting to learn if we qualify for this funding. As far as staffing in concerned, Mr. Dove has requested that we have a District Instructional Technologist at each campus. This would entail identifying one current staff member to serve in this position. The Instructional Technologist would be responsible for working with teachers to demonstrate how technology could be utilized in instruction. And finally, Dove stated that the District website will be updated to include all required information and notices.

Formative Evaluation: The committee conducted a formative evaluation of the Campus Improvement Plan to complete the agenda. The committee then had the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, or suggestions.

Adjournment: Mrs. Sims thanked the committee for attending and stated that the next meeting would be on April 16, 2008, at 212 North Miller in the Board Room at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.