

BRECKENRIDGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
2009-2010

MINUTES:

The Breckenridge Independent School District Improvement Committee met on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 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:

Jennings Teel	Linda Sims	James Marrs
Dwayne Dove	Kim Fuller	Dane Richardson
Jana Davis	Katherine Mauldin	Cheryl Logan
Jerry Overman	Claudia Yeager	Pat Renchler
Abby Moore	Jennifer Herrington	

Present as non-committee members: Molly Peterson and Susan Fambrough

Those not present were as follows: Bryan Dieterich, Leslie Harris, Lee Garner, Sandy Morris, Skip Griffith, Jean Hayworth, Stacey Donaldson, Winnie Barclay, Susan Moore

Welcome and Committee Training: Jennings Teel, BISD Superintendent, brought the meeting to order. He explained the role of the District Improvement Council as a site based group to help identify needs so that they can be addressed in the District Improvement Plan.

Planning: Using a power point, Mr. Teel presented the Board Goals for 2009-2010. He addressed each of the goals with the members explaining the each was based on an identified area of concern. The first goal for this district is to be Exemplary by 2014. The ground-work has already been laid, and the goal is attainable. BISD has done well with four of the five campuses receiving a TEA Recognized rating. However, Exemplary is the highest attainable rating and the goal is to reach that and become a premier district in the region and state. Goal two is to have a balanced budget in 2009-2010. Last year we ended with a deficit budget. At present we are doing well with the current budget; however, it has been difficult and will continue to be a problem for the next few years. BISD finances are better than many other districts in the state. One of the few ways the district can make a difference in our financial situation is to maintain a 96% Average Daily Attendance, which addresses goal three. The campuses are working diligently to keep the ADA at or near that percentage even though we have had to deal with this year's flu epidemic. Our students must be in school to be successful, and we will do everything necessary to assure attendance. Marketing BISD is goal five. People who are planning a move to Breckenridge look at the school district's website to learn about the school system. Our website has been updated and presents a positive representation of our

district. The district as a whole is doing a much better job of marketing. Finally, the need for new facilities is evident. The current facilities do not adequately provide enough opportunity for students to be successful in a global society. This one goal will be an important factor in meeting all other goals of the district. Facilities have been a primary concern for many years for many reasons including the constraints they place on students and teacher to be able to use the most current technology. The committee and school personnel can help inform the public concerning the need for new and updated facilities.

Budget: James Marrs, BISD Business Manager, informed the committee that the 2009-2010 budget is a balanced budget of \$13,064,889. Local property values decreased from 2008 to 2009 by nearly \$50 million, resulting in a tax revenue decrease of nearly \$350,000. The 2009-2010 budget is a very tight budget. All expenditures this year need to be a “needs” not “wants” expenditure. As of December 31, 2009, the financial report shows that General Fund Revenues are at 40.82% and Expenditures are at 31.52% for the fiscal year. The future for school finance does not look promising. With a projected \$19 billion shortfall in the state’s budget for the next biennium, the prospect of increased funding for public education does not look good. Therefore, we need to be diligent in our goal of a balanced budget so that we do not deplete our fund balance.

Curriculum and Instruction: The committee was advised on State Accountability results from the Texas Education Agency. The district received an Academically Acceptable rating. Four of the five campuses received a TEA Recognized Rating and one was Academically Acceptable. Copies of the AEIS report were available to each member for review. The committee also learned that BISD had again met Adequately Yearly Progress, AYP. This Federal evaluation is based upon TAKS scores in reading and mathematics, completion rate, and attendance rate. It was reported that BISD was identified for TEA monitoring through the Performance Based Monitoring system due to the number of Limited English Proficient, LEP, students failing the TAKS. A Core Analysis Team was formed to study the issue through a Focus Analysis process in order to identify the possible causes of the problem. They compiled information and wrote a Continuous Improvement Plan based on the data to address the needs of the LEP students. The CIP must have been completed by December 15, 2009 and kept on file in the district. TEA may call for the documentation at any time. The plan will be distributed to the campus administrators who are responsible for training their staff and initiating prescribed practices in the classroom.

This year the Bilingual Dual Language Program was added to the second grade at North Elementary. The English teacher is Lisa Dye and the Spanish teacher is Mayra Martinez. Mrs. Martinez is a product of Breckenridge High School and a graduate of Tarleton State University. Next year, we will add the program to third grade. We will be looking at the staffing needs for this program but already have several interested candidates.

BISD applied to TEA for a bilingual exception in grades Pre-K, 3-6 this year. Since we have applied for the last six years, TEA requires us to steadily add the program to these grade levels. TEA is asking for our plan on adding the Pre-K program which they want immediately. This would require us to add two grade levels in one year. As I have

explained to TEA, the only issue we have is finding certified Bilingual (Spanish) teachers. At this time it is critical that we move up the grade levels due to the fact that our students are moving up each year. If we only have one qualified Spanish teacher available, we must add that teacher to the next highest grade level.

One of the most important moves for this district is the adoption of the C-Scope Curriculum. In order for the district to attain an exemplary status, curriculum alignment in grades K-12 is essential. This curriculum provides that deep alignment. It is currently being used by most of the regions in the state. Teachers are required to teach State Objectives, TEKS, for each subject and grade level. By law, we must cover all objectives. C-Scope teams, all Texas educators, have sequenced the objectives for each subject and grade level using the most current and available research. C-Scope has clarified for the teachers the student expectations and placed the objectives in a specified order, allowing every teacher to complete the tested objectives prior to the TAKS Test. Currently, BISD is requiring teachers to use the Scope and Sequence. There are other components to the C-Scope program such as unit test, lesson plans, and the 5E teaching model. Our teachers have access to all and have been given permission to use whatever they determine is the best to positively impact student success.

State and Federal Program Information: BISD receives funds from State and Federal Programs. The entitlements are used to supplement academic programs, technology, supplies and payroll. Various programs at East, North and South are paid with funds from these entitlements, as is summer school for all campuses. All funds are earmarked for specific needs according to state and federal guidelines. The committee received a list of programs and the entitlements for the committee to review. The handout included a description of each program and described some of the ways the money was used in the district.

Staffing Patterns: District and Campus Highly Qualified Reports have been posted to the District website. Both professional and paraprofessional personnel continue to be 100% highly qualified throughout the district.

Staff Development: Mrs. Sims provided the committee information on district staff development. Throughout the year, staff members attend training in the district, as well as those offered at Region 14 Educational Service Center. One of the ongoing topics is C-Scope. Region 14 consultants are invited to come on to campuses for “doctor visits”. Other required trainings that regularly take place in the summer or as needed during the school year include CPR/AEP, CIP, Gifted and Talented, and Bus Driver training.

Teachers and paraprofessionals are required to attend eighteen hours of training in the summer to be allowed comp days during the year. For those who have not completed staff development, there are other opportunities such as the Professional Book Club and Saturday schools where teachers are needed to monitor students.

Technology: Dwayne Dove, BISD Technology Coordinator addressed the committee and provided a handout for the committee members. Mr. Dove discussed ways that

technology could help save the school district money by utilizing open source software for several things, and also by utilizing the new networked Xerox copiers for printing. He demonstrated how he printed a 26 page report on just six pages of paper. He stated, "This solution may not work for everybody, but even if we just print duplex copies, that can save half of the paper needed for a report." In current projects, Mr. Dove reported that the 2010-2013 Technology Plan for BISD had been approved by TEA, and that the E-RATE Form 470 had been submitted.

Formative Evaluation: The committee conducted a formative evaluation of the District Improvement Plan to complete the agenda. Activities and strategies that have been achieved, meeting Board Goals, were outline in a handout to the members.

Adjournment: Mrs. Sims thanked the committee for attending, and the meeting was adjourned.