

BRECKENRIDGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
2005-2006

MINUTES:

The Breckenridge Independent School District Improvement Committee met on Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 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	Joe Bob Jackson
Leslie Blackerby	Kathey Collinsworth	Martye Underwood
Marjorie Thompson	Rebecca Blackman	Pat Renschler
Cindy Creager	Brent Evans	Stephanie Russell
Lela Russell	Dwayne Dove	Dovie Olaves
Lilas Davis	Sheila Tonne	

Those not present were as follows: Roberta Brown, Mark Wilcox, Lisa Schwandner, Robert Burchett, Kathy McCullough

Welcome: Linda Sims, Curriculum Director, welcomed committee members.

Planning: Ms. Sims stated that the Academic Achievement Indicator System (AEIS) report was made public today. The report is a snapshot of the District and includes test scores, accountability, student information, staff information and district financial information. At the next meeting, the committee would have the opportunity to view the report; however, she did report that two campuses had received Gold Performance Acknowledgements: Breckenridge High School for Recommended High School Plan and Improvements in Mathematics and Breckenridge Junior High for Improvements in Reading/Language Arts and Improvements in Mathematics.

Plans for the 2006-2007 calendar are beginning with a School Start District Survey that will be provided to parents, community, school personnel, and students to determine a preference for a school start date and for preferred holiday dates. The committee reviewed a sample survey and made necessary changes. The calendar will be distributed to campuses on January 5 when school resumes following the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Sims told the committee that parent involvement was an important issue and asked the committee to provide input on ways to improve the districts effort to get parents involved. The committee expressed great approval of the Parent Access program initiated by the district this school year. They stated that this had been very successful and they were seeing positive results. The committee discussed the availability of parent workshops provided locally and at ESC14 in Abilene that were valuable sources of

information on important topics for parents; however, these are poorly attended. The committee was asked to encourage more parents to attend these events.

Tutoring programs are offered at each campus. At South Elementary and Jr. High the students are given the opportunity and encouraged to attend after school tutoring to receive TAKS remediation as well as classroom remediation.

Budget: Mrs. Brown was unable to attend the meeting but did provide a budget report to the committee to review.

Curriculum/Instruction: One of the most significant issues for curriculum and instruction is aligning programs. Administrators will be working to identify needed programs for the district to build strong foundations for success. One example given was the numerous writing programs that are available. Several are currently being used within the district. According to Mrs. Sims we need to identify the one that best meets the needs of our students and apply it throughout the grade levels. All areas of core instruction need to be evaluated and aligned.

State and Federal Programs Information: The district has received valuable services from ESC 14 through the Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant. The grant has provided Safety Walk-Through visits that evaluated the campus safety measures in place on the campus. Jr. High recently had a walk-through and learned discovered areas that needed to be address to provide a safe and secure environment. The committee discussed several concerned that were safety issues. Mr. Evans, Jr. High Principal, informed the committee of the corrections that had been made as a result of the visit.

Notice of Grant Award for the ARI and AMI Grant has been received. The money will be used to provide reading materials, math manipulatives, computers, training for reading specialist at South, a math aide at North and after school programs.

A Notice of Grant Award for Optional Extended Year will allow us to provide three teachers and supplies for the 2006 summer session.

The district has written and is currently waiting to receive a NOGA for the Title VI Grant. Title VI, Rural and Low Income Schools Grant will provide the Odyssey Program for students who are in need of recovering credits in order to graduate. The grant also provided computers for the soon to be credit recovery lab. The Disciplinary Alternative Education Program and Breckenridge Junior High will also be able to utilize the Odyssey Program for student remediation.

Staffing Patterns: No Child Left Behind requires that only highly qualified teachers and para-professionals be hired to fill positions within the district. Due to the numbers of Limited English Proficient students in several grade levels, the district is in need of certified bilingual teachers to begin a bilingual program. Many colleges and universities have been contacted in an effort to recruit bilingual graduates. It is difficult to attract bilingual teachers due to a shortage throughout the state. Currently, we are encouraging teachers within our district to become bilingually certified.

As the school year draws to an end, Connie Martin, Superintendent of Schools, as well as other administrators will be evaluating the needs of the district to hire and/or assign qualified teachers to strategic areas.

Staff Development: There is continuous staff development at BISD. Each early release day provides opportunity to campus staff development. Some areas that we will be addressing as a district in the future are bipolar disorder, crisis training, Smart Board training, program alignment as well as other areas identified through needs assessment conducted after the first of the year. Because of vast amount of staff development required of our teachers, more qualified substitutes are needed. This is a growing area of concern for many area districts.

School Organization: Student enrollment for December 1, 2005, was 2005 was 1649 which is up 28 students as compared to December 1, 2004, when the enrollment was 1621. The enrollment has dropped from the first of the year; however, flocculation is to be expected.

Technology Update: Dwayne Dove stated that Family Access was going very well. He stated that he expected enrollment in the system would continue to grow. Currently, approximately 180 parents have requested Family Access.

BISD has just receive notice of the award of \$46,000 we will receive because of our participation in a RUSS Grant applied for through ESC14. The money will provide Video Conferencing equipment for three BISD campuses, audio visual equipment for Breckenridge High School to be used in a collaborative project, lap top computers for the high school and the opportunity to provide training to prospective nurses aides through the distance learning lab. Thought it has taken a year to be approved, the grant is a welcomed resource for technology advancement at BISD.

Formative Evaluation: An evaluation of the District Improvement Plan was conducted to identify the goals, strategies and activities that have been completed or are ongoing and the results of each activity or event since the last regular meeting of the District Improvement Council.

Adjournment: