

Meeting Minutes for PfISD District of Innovation Committee Meeting on May, 15, 2017

1. Welcome (Start Time: 5:34PM)
 - Welcome comments from Troy Galow:
 - This is a process of local control.
 - Should be an open discussion.
 - Thanks for participation.
 - Intro – Dr. O’Hare
 - Stated thanks for being here and giving the time.
 - Took group thru “get to know each other” activities.
2. Who we are and why we are here – Dr. O’Hare
 - Stated that this is a group of parents, teachers, community members, and local business representatives.
 - Stated we are here for the “kids”.
3. What is District of Innovation (DOI)? – Dr. O’Hare
 - Stated brief description of HB 1842.
 - Stated that it is to be a collaborative plan.
 - Went thru activities to introduce the group to the District Mission Statement.
 - Feedback was given from members sharing their views:
 - Want to attract world class teachers and administrators.
 - Want to help students achieve their potential.
 - Want equitable opportunity for all.
 - Want schools/the district to be safe and nurturing.
 - Want continual self-development.
 - Stated that the group needs to incorporate our mission and goals into the DOI plan.
4. What DOI is . . .and what DOI is NOT
 - Dr. O’Hare stated DOI is not to be a method of “exemption” from required portion of the Texas Educational Code and HB 1842 explicitly states items in the code you cannot touch.
 - Cannot exempt from required curriculum
 - Cannot exempt from requirements of financial management and fiscal responsibility.
 - Cannot be way of doing less for our students
 - Dr. O’Hare stated that some of the early request from districts for DOI were not explicit enough about their desired exemptions.
 - The handout of list of exemptions taken by other districts was presented.
 - Noted that the list includes references to the relevant part of the Educational Code for each requested exemption.
 - Noted some of the exemptions requested.
 1. School start date (most popular exemption requested).
 2. 90% attendance rule.
 3. Behavior Coordinator requirement.
 4. Long range energy plan.
 - A question was asked about the financial impact from implementing a DOI.
 1. Dr. O’Hare stated it will vary from district to district and we need to have a conversation about associated cost of desired exemptions.
 - Had each table group look over the list and discuss with themselves.
 - Noted that the TEA has a DOI site
 - Most plans that were looked at had ½ dozen or less exemptions requested.

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5. Process

- Steps that have already happened:
 - Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to form a committee
 - A public hearing was held
 - This committee was appointed
- This committee develops a plan (or not)
- If the committee develops a plan:
 - Plan goes to District Academic Advisory Committee for approval
- If DAAC approves, plan is posted for 30 days
- After 30 days, the Board of Trustees may vote on the proposed plan.
 - For the plan to be adopted, two thirds of the trustees must vote to approve the plan
- If approved, the district notifies TEA

6. Next Steps

- Encouraged group to take comment card and give feedback.
- Fall Meetings at Cele Middle School, 5:30-7PM:
 - 9/12/17, 9/26/17, 10/10/17, and 11/6/17
- Questions:
 - Will there be sub-committees? Answer: Not unless necessary.
 - How specific can we be? Answer: Need to be as specific as possible.
 - Where to submit suggestions and questions? Answer: To Dr. O'Hare.
 - How immediate is the implementation? Answer: Will be immediate upon TEA approval but then must follow our existing timelines concerning schedule approvals for new school years.
 - What is the voting method within the group? i.e. simple majority? Answer: Dr. O'Hare will work on a process and present to the group.
 - How does this go with District Improvement?
 - What does the School District Administration want to change? Answer: Mainly the school start date.
 - What happens after 5 years (length of DOI by SB 1842)? Answer: If the law is still in place, this process will need to be repeated.
 - What feedback will be offered to suggestions that are handled by other means than the DOI?
 - Question about the slide presented to the School Board's DOI Meeting?
- Closing (End Time 6:36PM)

Handouts:

- List of exemptions taken by other districts
- District's Mission, Strategic Goals, Our Values, and Our Vision
- Chapter 102 Educational Programs, Sub Chapter JJ, Commission rules concerning Innovation Districts