

Minutes

Districtwide Improvement Committee Minutes

December 11, 2001

Donna Boehm reviewed the Drug-Free Schools program at the elementary noting that teachers use the DAVE (Drug, Alcohol and Violence Education) program in their classrooms throughout the year, that she provides guidance lessons in classrooms and that each year a student survey is completed by fourth graders as part of the evaluation process. Doug McLaughlin shared the information on the middle school and high school with the committee. Middle school students have had lessons on teasing and bullying, and sixth grade students have seen three videos on violence prevention and drug abuse prevention. Both the middle school and high school use the DAVE program in their classrooms, and sixth, eighth, ninth and twelfth grade students participate in the program evaluation process by completing student surveys. The district will survey parents and community members as part of the evaluation process in the spring of 2002.

On February 18th the district staff development will include information on brain research during the morning session and vertical team meetings in the afternoon. Carol Mendenhall who will provide the presentation on brain research asked that we narrow the brain research topic. The committee requested that the focus be on the implications of brain research for the classroom. Members were especially interested in information on retention and understanding of information and how brain research impacts these items. Applicable presentation strategies to use in the classroom as teachers implement the research were also requested. Finally, the committee asked that a bibliography of resources on the topic be provided.

The staff development survey results from the seventy-four respondents were reviewed. The majority of the staff were pleased with the information shared by Ian Jukes on technology (89%). The committee discussed the numerous suggestions for topics and consultants for staff development including the need for vertical teams to meet to continue to align the TEKS and to review the implications of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, TAKS, for students and teachers and to develop strategies to address those implications. The Campus Improvement Committees will be invited to join the committee at the next meeting to discuss these ideas for staff development.

The January 29th meeting of the DWIC was rescheduled for February 5th in room 21 at the high school.

The DWIC identified several points for the calendar committee to consider as they develop the 2002-2003 school calendar. These included having the same spring break as Judson and other surrounding school districts, having all staff development prior to the beginning of school, setting the calendar to end prior to May 31st, and eliminating spring break and having a long weekend instead. Other points were to eliminate spring break and have several four-day weeks in April and May so that students would not miss as much school to compete in UIL events, to have a comp day for attending training in the summer and to have the RFISD calendar match the other districts' calendars as much as

possible. Karen Bessette also noted that the elementary had low attendance rates on the Monday and Tuesday prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. These suggestions will be shared with the calendar committee as they deliberate on the calendar for next year.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2002
Randolph High School
Room 21
4:00 PM