

Districtwide Improvement Committee Minutes
November 13, 2007

Debbie Ables shared the English as a Second Language program with the committee members. Debbie explained the process that is used to identify students, the testing used to qualify students for the program, the content of the ESL program and the exit procedures for students. At this time there are no middle school Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. The elementary has four students receiving services while one student has exited the program and is being monitored. The high school has one LEP student who works with Cheryl each day. Debbie reviewed the components of the TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System) testing system with the committee. The assessment system has two components: TELPAS Reading and the TELPAS listening, speaking, writing and reading component. Both components are to assess the progress that the limited English proficient students make in learning the English language. Debbie noted some revisions to the ESL plan to keep it current with the testing procedures that were added by the state this year.

Rita Polen reviewed the Staff Development Plan with the committee and noted that the plan described the staff development for certified staff members (teachers, administrators, counselors, etc.) as well as classified staff members (secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, etc.).

The committee discussed staff development needs for teachers as well as the needs for the campuses and the district as a whole. The committee thought that continuing the joint staff development with Lackland and Ft. Sam Houston and having time for vertical team meetings during the year were important staff development needs for RFISD. The principals will poll their teachers for staff development recommendations and bring that information back to the committee at the December 11 meeting.

The school calendar for 2008-2009 was also discussed. The committee suggested that this year's calendar would be an excellent starting point for planning next year. Having a week at Thanksgiving and spring break were important to DWIC members. The principals are to poll their teachers and their Campus Improvement Committees and bring back their calendar recommendations to the December DWIC meeting.

The staffing patterns of the district were discussed by the principals. They attend job fairs, and are the personnel department on their campuses. Their objective is to find the best possible teachers, regardless of cost. One consideration regarding the hiring of faculty is the number of sections a course must be offered. Budget also is considered, along with training and familiarity with educational technology. Some position interviews include the department head and/or grade level members. The most important function of the principals is to find the best employees possible. Another consideration is given to input by the CIC, as master schedule changes can affect an entire department or campus.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2007
Randolph High School
Room 21

4:00 PM