

Districtwide Improvement Committee Minutes

20th October, 2004

The new members are Jennifer Grable (representing the community), and Holly Schwarz (representing the parents) and Francille Hatchett (representing the middle school teachers). Ms. Schwarz and Ms. Hatchett were not in attendance for the meeting.

Rita Polen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the role and purposes of DWIC, which include the development of non-state appraisal criteria, and provision for written comments on requests for waivers. The committee is composed of a diverse group of members, including school staff, district-level staff, parents, and business and community members. The roles of the superintendent and others were outlined in the Leadership Roles and responsibilities document. Ground rules for the team were discussed, including the policy in which the DWIC members build consensus. Rather than decisions being made by at least a majority vote, members are asked if they can support the decision. The committee continues to work through the process until such an agreement can be reached.

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. The district desires 10 or more students per class, so Distance Learning is likely to become more important over time in the offering of electives with low enrollment. Other course offering (and therefore staffing) considerations include more stringent requirements by the state, for example, more colleges are requiring 3 years of Spanish instead of 2.

The 2004-2005 District Improvement Plan Overview will be handed out at the next meeting.

The Results of an Aligned Curriculum shows how RFISD matches its curriculum to its objectives for the curriculum, as shown by objective results. The data trends are mostly invisible, since the district's population is small. TAKS, ITBS, AP results show us how our students are doing. We have 8 or 9 AP classes in spite of our small size (roughly 260 students). Average daily attendance is tracked, as are percentage of graduates, percentage of GED, number of dropouts (zero at this time). Some students elect to return for a 5th year in order to graduate with a high school diploma instead of a GED diploma.

A subcommittee was formed to complete a draft of the revisions to the template for the Campus Improvement Committee Report. Diane Hogan, Allana Hemenway, Laurel McCurdy volunteered to be part of the committee.

The Campus Improvement Plan has been in place for 9 years, and needs to be scrutinized to determine whether or not to delete, amend, or keep it as is. The entire DWIC needs to be present, and the meeting on the Campus Improvement Plan process needs to be separate from the already scheduled DWIC meetings. After some discussion, the date of Tuesday, the 16th of November, 4PM, in room 21 was chosen.

No additional agenda items were offered.

Next scheduled meeting: **Tuesday, November 9, 2004**
 Randolph High School
 Room 21
 4:00 PM