

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Fort Bend ISD

The goal of the District of Innovation Committee is to develop a local innovation plan in accordance with Section 12A.003 of the Texas Education Code. The following guide is intended to facilitate productive and focused conversations at three committee meetings that result in a plan to present to the Fort Bend ISD community that is aligned with Fort Bend ISD’s Mission, Vision, and the Board’s Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Meeting 1: Friday, December 2

Introduce members and clarify roles, provide an extensive overview of the planning process, provide information on HB 1842, collaborate and discuss early ideas, and consider roles within theme-based sub-committees.

TASK	Minutes/Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce facilitators and committee members • Review meeting agenda and objectives • Review FBISD’s Mission, Vision, Core Beliefs and Commitments, and the Draft Profile of a Graduate document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dupre, Superintendent, welcomed the committee members and explained that he was there to appreciate and thank them for their support of FBISD. He shared that this would be a committee driven process and he would not be involved in the work of the committee. He also expressed that he wanted committee members to be comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas in order to develop the local innovation plan. Hence, FBISD asked Shelby McIntosh, facilitator from K12 Insight and Debbie Esterak, attorney from Rogers, Morris & Grove, to lead the work of the committee. • Members introduced themselves sharing connection to FBISD and expectation of their role on the Local Innovation Committee. • Meeting facilitator, Shelby McIntosh, explained the agenda and meeting handouts. • Debra Esterak, attorney, explained her role with the committee. • Facilitators reviewed the documents provided to participants.

<p>Presentation: (S. McIntosh)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a district of innovation? • In what ways are we free to innovate? • What are the advantages for FBISD? • What concerns might our stakeholders have? • How do we get there? 	<p>Note: power point presentation is available (see link on FBISD website on District of Innovation page).</p> <p>Shelby McIntosh presented the definition of District of Innovation as the concept passed by 84th Legislative Session in HB 1842, effective immediately, that gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas’ open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an Innovation plan as set forth in the Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.</p> <p>It was explained to the committee that districts are free to innovate in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School District planning and decision making • Educator appraisals, certifications, duties/development, benefits • Student attendance, calendar, class size, discipline • Fiscal Management, depositories, purchases, misc.
<p>Presentation: (D. Esterak)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1842 • Legal Considerations • Most commonly requested exemptions (table) • Laws eligible for “opt out” and those that are not 	<p>Note: power point presentation is available (see link on website on District of Innovation page).</p> <p>Debbie Esterak explained the history of the Education Code and House Bill 1842 as a way for school districts to pursue the same innovations as charter/private schools.</p> <p>Opt out and Opt in documents were shared to explain what districts can opt in and out of under District of Innovation. She explained that once the committee develops the plan, it has to be posted for thirty days, approved by the Academic Advisory Committee, sent to the Commissioner of Education, and then approved by the Board by a two-thirds majority vote.</p> <p>She cautioned that the committee should think through the timeline for the plan to be effective so that it does not end in the middle of a year depending on when the Board approves the local innovation plan.</p>

Plan requirements were discussed. What may or may not be exempted was discussed. Federal and state laws that are applicable to open enrollment charter schools cannot be exempted. Only Education Code provisions applicable to districts, but not specifically applicable to open enrollment charter schools, may be exempted. Districts may not be exempted from applicable state laws found in other Codes, such as Labor, Government, Health and Safety, etc.

The checklist from TEA was shared and discussed. The local innovation plan that will be submitted to the commissioner must be accompanied by the checklist.

A question was asked regarding once the plan is approved, would it be in place for the five years. Ms. Esterak responded that you can amend it at any time and to amend you must go through the Academic Advisory Council (AAC) which serves as the district advisory committee to make changes.

Committee members inquired about state assessments and Ms. Esterak explained that Districts cannot opt out of the STAAR test and cannot exempt out of accountability.

Ms. Esterak cautioned the committee regarding the minimum number of instructional minutes. She explained that a district can run into a funding issue if students are served fewer than the required minimum number of minutes.

A committee member requested more information about the Campus Behavior Coordinator and wanted to know what does this mean and how is it implemented in FBISD. More information will be provided subsequent to the meeting.

A committee member wanted to know if districts are putting in things that may not be valid or legal and if the plan doesn't have to be approved by the commissioner, where is the accountability factor? Ms. Esterak responded that TEA and the legislature are struggling with this and would imagine that some of these plans may be challenged.

	<p>There was a question and discussion about anything in this work that addresses matters that happen in the classroom. Ms. Esterak shared that there may be a policy or administrative regulation that mandates actions that occur in the classroom. For example, the committee member wanted to know if there was anything in place that allows or restricts what happens between the teacher and student such as the requirement for a minimum number of grades. Ms. Esterak explained that the answer was no, because that is not a law. The facilitators explained that the great thing about this committee was that if policies or regulations were in place, that were keeping anyone from innovating or achieving, to bring them up during this process. The committee was asked to think out of the box and not to let policy or regulation hinder their creativity at this point with the work.</p> <p>A committee member expressed concern regarding teachers and the burden to implement new rules resulting from the work of the committee. He shared that he preferred for the teachers to do less paperwork and did not want to create more work for teachers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present Community Priority Survey results • Facilitated group discussion: Turning data into action 	<p>The preliminary Community Priorities Survey results were shared with the group and will be made available publically once final.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding a data breakdown by region and by feeder patten because there are different values that different communities hold on many of these issues.</p> <p>Shelby McIntosh will provide the data to the committee at another time.</p> <p>The facilitators explained the homework tasks for the committee members which included: Find a part of the survey and ask yourself “why” four times...root cause to be food for thought for next week’s meeting.</p>
<p>Activity: As the following areas of focus are described, committee members are asked to consider each in the context of FBISD’s Mission, Vision, Core Beliefs and the survey results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School District: Planning and decision making • Educators: Appraisals, certification, duties/development, benefits 	<p>Committee members chose a subcommittee topic and moved to work with other members with the same subcommittee topic.</p> <p>Subcommittee topics included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School District 2. Educators 3. Students 4. Fiscal Management

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students: Attendance, calendar, class size, discipline • Fiscal Management: Depositories, purchases, misc. • Other <p>Committee members then move to the table that corresponds to the area of focus they are most interested in further exploring. Groups need not be even and not all topics need to be covered.</p>	
<p>Closing: Review the agenda for the next meeting, including the format for the Sprint to Solutions. The following “homework” is assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the following DOI plans from other school districts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birdville ISD El Paso ISD Spring Branch ISD Etc. • Read the Raise Your Hand Texas Report 	<p>Note: Meeting documents distributed to committee members are available via links on the FBISD website on the District of Innovation page.</p>

