

DSIC Meeting

November 9, 2022 – 4:15pm

WELCOME

- Sara Ryan
 - Discussed our meeting norms

DOI INFORMATION

- Dr. Terri Mossige
 - LCISD is exploring the possibility of becoming a DOI
 - LCISD wants to have the flexibility of Charter Schools which are increasing in presence within our district and surrounding our district
 - LCISD desires freedom in customizing an innovation plan
 - LCISD wants more autonomy and ability to govern our district in the best possible manner for our students, teachers, and parents
- THE NINE AREA OF STATE LAW CONSIDERED FOR EXEMPTIONS BY LCISD
 - Uniform School Start/End Date (Tx Ed Code 25.0811 - .0812)
 - Currently, under TEA, “A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.”
 - Under the Proposed DOI Plan, LCISD seeks to:
 - Start earlier to align with surrounding districts
 - Better for teachers looking to enter or leave LCISD because of the 45-day contract rule
 - Helps teachers balance the number of days in each semester
 - Elementary should finish two 9-weeks before Winter Break
 - Secondary should have three 6-weeks before Winter Break that are 6 weeks each
 - Similar calendars to surrounding districts that will help parents with kids in other schools (Ex: We would have Columbus Day and similar days off with other schools)
 - Allows for a 4-day weekend fall break in October
 - State Certification Requirements for Teachers and Other Educators (Tx Ed Code 21.003, 21.053, 21.057)
 - Currently, under TEA: “A person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued.”
 - Under the Proposed DOI Plan, LCISD seeks to:
 - The district will have the ability to hire non-certified teachers for programs that can be traditionally difficult to find applicants for:
 - Specifically: LOTE and CTE teachers
 - These teachers would receive local teacher certifications based on criteria such as years of service and current industry experience and certifications.
 - Local Certification only allows these teachers to teach in LCISD...If they choose to leave our district, it will be “at-will,” and they will have to adhere to the policies of any new district they decide they may want to work at.
 - Length/ Number of Days of Teacher Contracts (Tx Ed Code 21.401)

- Currently, under TEA, teachers are required to have a minimum 10-month contract with 187 days
 - Under the Proposed DOI Plan, LCISD seeks to:
 - Possibly lower contract days (This is dependent upon adoption of DOI and further calendar options.)
 - Less contract days makes LCISD more competitive for retaining and hiring quality educators.
 - This will NOT result in a decrease of pay based on days worked. Teacher contracts will be adjusted to reflect a higher per day rate with less days worked in order to balance the equation.

○ Minimum days of Attendance (90% Attendance Rule) (Tx Ed Code 25.092)

- Currently, under TEA, State law requires students to attend class 90 percent of the school days on a district calendar to earn credit. The law requires districts to award class credit to students based on the time a student is present in a classroom for instruction rather than mastery of content and subject proficiency.”
 - Under the Proposed DOI plan, LCISD could potentially do the following:
 - Eliminate credit denial, 90% rule
 - Allow additional credit options for our Alternative Campuses
 - Allow flexibility for differentiated learners
 - Allow options for home-bound students or those with medical history and concerns
 - LCISD would have flexibility to award credits in ways that align with individual student needs and extenuating circumstances understanding that not all learners learn the same way or come from homogenized backgrounds.

○ Campus Behavior Coordinator (Tx Ed Code 37.0012)

- Currently, Senate Bill 107 requires the designation of a campus behavior coordinator on each campus. This designee is responsible for maintaining student discipline and implementing Chapter 37, Subchapter A:
 - “A person at each campus must be designated to serve as the CBC. The person may be the campus principal, or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The CBC is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline and implementing educational code Chapter 37.
 - Under the Proposed DOI Plan, LCISD seeks to:
 - Add additional CBCs to be used with the understanding that the administrators who know students and have relationships with them and their families/guardians will be beneficial to the school as a whole.
 - This helps build more trust between the CDC (administration) and the students and parents/guardians.
 - This helps best meet the needs of our students and our teachers.

○ DAEP Teacher Certification Requirement (Tx Ed Code 37.006, 37.007, 37.008)

- Currently, TEA requires that DAEP hires only certified teachers, provides services in a setting other than the regular classroom, provides for students who are assigned to the program to be separated from those who are not assigned to the program, provide for student educational and behavioral needs, provide supervision and counseling, provide not less than the minimum number of instructional days per year.”
 - Under the Proposed DOI, LCISD seeks to:
 - Allow LCISD to better utilize staff to effectively run the DAEP. This would potentially allow non-certified staff to oversee student modules presented in an online modality.

- Allow students younger than 6th grade to be placed in DAEP sites that would help them with academic and social skills needed to better integrate back into the mainstream classroom.
- Integrate DAEP to house both elementary and secondary students.

○ Limitations on Student Suspensions (Tx Ed Code 37.005)

- Currently, TEA requires that the principal or other administrator may suspend a student who engages in conduct identified in the student code of conduct and under Texas Education Code Section 37.01 as conduct for which the student may be suspended:
 - A suspension may not exceed three school days.
 - Under the Proposed DOI, LCISD:
 - Realizes this limitation minimizes a campus's options for discipline without sending a student to a DAEP.
 - LCISD would like to explore a range of options for campuses to view discipline and better meet student and campus needs while students are being disciplined.

○ Suspension Limitations for Students below 3rd Grade (Tx Ed Code 37.005)

- Currently, TEA states that a student who is enrolled in a grade level below grade 3 may not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - Currently this conduct is related to elements of offense that relate to weapons, violence related offenses, and/or drug related offenses.
 - Under the Proposed DOI Plan, LCISD:
 - Seeks to develop a plan for students in this age group that would allow for proper discipline, education, and social remediation outside of the regular education classroom.

○ Required Professional Development (Tx Ed Code 21.451, 21.458)

- Currently, TEA states that staff development provided by a school district to an educator other than a principal must be conducted in accordance with standards developed by the district and designed to improve education in the district.
 - Under the Proposed DOI plan, LCISD:
 - Proposes to require the back-to-school training videos once every three years for returning employees, and upon hiring for new employees.
 - LCISD wants to allow staff to have more time to prepare for students by adopting this policy.

CONTINUED INFORMATION FROM DR. MOSSIAGE:

- If the DSIC approves exploration of consideration of DSIC, it will be on the docket for discussion at the NOVEMBER 15, 2022, Board Meeting.
 - When presented to the Board on 11/15, they are voting whether or not to EXPLORE becoming a district of innovation with the 9 points outlined above.... They ARE NOT voting to APPROVE being a district of innovation.
 - The DOI does not have to be approved by the TEA; instead, it is approved by the school board with a 2/3 majority vote. This is NOT happening on November 15. If the Board approves exploring DOI, then this vote would take place in January 2023.
- If the DOI is approved, it will go into effect during the 2023-24 school year.
- If approved, the DOI cannot simply be changed. It MUST pass through an amendment process to have any changes made.
- If the DOI passes, it is a 5-year plan.

CALENDAR DISCUSSION WITH SONYA-COLE HAMILTON

- Three calendar options will be emailed out for voting.
 - This will happen after the 11/15 Board Meeting.
 - Two calendar options will be available that align with adopting DOI plan.
 - A third calendar option will be sent that mirrors our current calendar and will be used in the event we do NOT adopt a DOI plan.
 - Starting 2023-24, calendar adoptions will be effective for 2 calendar years.
- Start and Stop time options will be sent with calendar options:
 - We are proposing moving from a 2-Tiered System to a 4-Tiered System for start/stop times.
 - The four tiers will be as follows:
 - High School
 - Junior High and Middle School
 - Elementary “A”
 - Elementary “B”
 - Staggering start/stop times will help with transportation.
 - There may be a need for before care if elementary schools don’t start until 8:30 or 9am.
- MAKE SURE YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY AND LET YOUR VOICE AND OPINION BE HEARD.

Q&A With Dr. Nivens:

1. Has eminent domain been finalized with respect to Tomas HS?
 - a. No, not at this time.
2. Will there be a district Christmas Party this year?
 - a. Yes, December 14th. Keep an eye on your email inbox for more information.
3. Will the district be aligning instruction with reading academy?
 - a. Katie Marchena: Yes. This year is the year to get everyone trained. Next year, curriculum alignment will reflect reading academy.
4. Will teachers lose contract time under DOI?
 - a. No, what is in the plan...Is in the plan. Any changes require board approval.
5. Will teachers receiving local certifications under DOI be paid the same as fully certified teachers?
 - a. Alfonso Bates: Yes, these teachers will be paid current teacher salaries; however, their certificates are only good for LCISD.
6. We have all heard the horror stories of DOI...Taking away teacher contracts, planning periods, paying below the state minimum, losing teacher lunch times, and eliminating class size restrictions.... Is LCISD proposing any of these scenarios?
 - a. No, what is outlined in the plan are the options LCISD is pursuing. Anything beyond this would have to go through an amendment process and be approved by the board.
7. Is there a specific reason LCISD has hesitated to become a DOI before now?
 - a. Yes, resistance of teachers due to bad reputation of DOI.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:45pm