

3/7/2023

Meeting called to order at 4:15pm

Sara Ryan opened the meeting by reviewing the meeting norms set forth by the committee.

Heather Turicchi explained the removal and disallowance of Innovations 5 and 6 per TEC with a recap of events in the 2022/23 school year. The DSIC met on November 9 and decided to investigate becoming a DOI. On November 13, 2023, the Board met and agreed to the same and appointed the DSIC as the District Innovation Committee. In December, the Thought Exchange was shared with the DSIC committee to gather information about innovations that we should pursue. The committee was also sent a link to a list of possible innovations. Innovations 5 and 6 were suggested through the thought exchange, most likely because they were in the original presentation showed to the DSIC On November 9, 2022 by Dr. Mossige as possible innovations. It was explained that variations of these innovations can be found in many DOI plans posted on the TEA website, but these plans were most likely written prior to the change in statute in 2021 making them null and void and unactionable.

On February 27, 2023, as the next step in the DOI process, district leadership emailed the final draft of our proposed DOI plan to the commissioner and TEA accreditation for review along with a notice of the Board's intention to vote on the proposed plan at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on March 21, 2023. District leadership has up until the day of the Board meeting to complete this step but exercised prudence in doing so almost a month before the meeting. The TEA Accreditation Team responded by email informing us that innovations 5 and 6 were prohibited.

Heather explained that she spoke with the TEA Accreditation Team and was informed that we do not have to repost our plan, as the ultimate authority to adopt the plan rests with the Board. They can legally restrict the size and scope of the plan but cannot do anything to increase its power.

Heather Turned the room over to Sara Ryan to address the stated purpose for the meeting and said there would be an opportunity for questions and concerns after Sara was done speaking.

Sara recapped the steps that have been followed in our DOI process to date. She said that the final version of the plan has been on our website for 30 days. She said that we have allowed public comments and public meetings.

Sara asked if there were any questions:

Shelby Nielsen said that Innovation 4 was not exemptible. Sara said we would investigate this and read the email reply from TEA: "While the Agency does not have approval authority of the plans, upon review we noticed a few items for clarification/feedback.

1. **TEC §21.003 (Certification Required)** – just to clarify, your district may be exempt from this provision, however please note that **your special education, bilingual/ESL, and prekindergarten teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.**
2. **TEC §37.005 (Suspension)** is indicated as a an exemption in your proposed plan. **Unfortunately, exemption from this section of statute is prohibited per our adopted [rules](#) (TAC §102.1309(a)(1)(H))**
3. **TEC §37.006(l) (Removal for Certain Conduct)** is indicated as a an exemption in your proposed plan. **Unfortunately, exemption from this section of statute is prohibited per our adopted [rules](#) (TAC §102.1309(a)(1)(H))."**

Sara explained these were the only comments made about our plan by the TEA Accreditation Team. Shelby explained that she misread the numbers in the TEC pertaining to Campus Behavior Coordinators, said she stood corrected, and apologized for the mishap. We told her it happens to us all...We are not experts at TEC which is one of the reasons plans are required to be filed with the commissioner prior to the Board voting on them.

Sara said this is ultimately not what we were here to vote on.

Sara explained the reason for the meeting today: Will the DSIC allow the Board to vote on the remaining four innovations one at a time, or do they need to vote on them as a whole?

QUESTIONS:

???: "What happened between the Board meeting and now that changes the way the vote would be done?"

???: "Can we vote yes, or no? Why has this been one-sided?" DSIC member said we did not vote yes or no.

Answer: We did vote "Yes or No" to the plan as a whole at the meeting held January 31, 2023. (Heather Turicchi)

???: "If ESL and Bilingual have to be certified, does that mean they can't go to a CTE classroom?" "Can bilingual students take CTE classes if the teacher is not a SBEC certified teacher?"

Answer: Yes. This is covered by the English class in high school. In high school, English teachers MUST be certified not CTE teachers. Dual language classes and ESL students still have to be taught by certified due to federal standards. (Katie Marchena)

Sara asked committee members if they wanted some time for table talk to discuss the issue at hand amongst themselves. No one indicated they wanted to have any discussion with colleagues.

At 4:40, the committee voted whether they wanted to allow the Board to vote innovation by innovation or the plan as a whole.

There were 65 votes collected: 45/65 (69%) Voted "Yes" to allow the Board to vote for each innovation individually. 20/65 (31%) Voted "No" to disallow an innovation-by-innovation vote.

QUESTIONS:

???: "Is 2/3 based on the whole Board or only the present Board?"

Answer: Sara Ryan explained that the Board has a quorum with 5 out of 7 members present, and as long as there are 5 members present, they will vote on this issue. She said that we do not have any indications as of now that any Board members will be missing on March 21, 2023.

???: There was a question about the sub-committees being formed by the administration and that it seemed suspicious, especially because some of the DSIC members were being asked to be part of these committees.

At the January 10, 2023 meeting, members requested DSIC representation at the subcommittees that would be working on the actionable portions of the plan. It was said at that time these members could include HR, curriculum, behavior, etc... (Heather Turicchi)

???: "The changes made to the plan took out 2 innovations that protected teachers...Does this change the way some people now view the DOI? Would some people who voted 'Yes' for the DOI not have done so without 5 and 6?"

Answer: This is a good question, but it is not one we can do anything about since 5 and 6 are not allowable by law to be exempted....Even if we want them. (Sara Ryan)

???: "If even one of the remaining four innovations is voted as a "Yes," we will become a DOI?"

Answer: Yes

Comment: If you (Sara and Heather) got an email from Nivens, why didn't you inform the committee? That's suspicious.

Another concern about the Board Meeting: "Regarding 2/3 vote by the Board: How can we guarantee that the members will show?"

Answer: Sara Ryan again explained that the Board must have a quorum to vote, meaning 5 Board members must be present to vote. To become a DOI, 2/3 of these must vote "Yes."

Concern over Chapter 21 rights: "How do we know that the Board won't take our lunch, etc.?"

Answer: What we put in the DOI will become local Board policy and affect ONLY CTE and World Languages. (Chad Jones)

The meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.