

**District of Innovation Committee Meeting # 5**  
**March 9, 2017**  
**South San Antonio ISD Board Room**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Convened: 6:23 pm**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 pm**

**District of Innovation Committee-16 members present**

Robert Blankenberg, Teacher, Zamora ES  
James Guillen, SE teacher, South San HS  
Lee Hernandez, Executive Principal, South San HS  
Xochitl Martinez Lozano, Early College Director, South San HS  
Lisa Wilburn, Music Teacher, Shepard MS  
Marisa Mendez, Principal, Kindred ES  
Rosanna Mercado, Principal, Zamora MS  
Gloria Galvan, Teacher, Price ES  
Yvonne Cardona, Teacher, Carrillo ES  
Christina Minter, Librarian, Athens ES  
Katie Hellum, Teacher, Palo Alto ES  
Cynthia Hernandez, Teacher, Palo Alto ES  
Aja Gardner, Director of STEM & Advanced Academics  
Marcy Lockridge, Community Member  
Judy Delgado-Speer, Community Member  
Rudy Lopez, Community Member

**Attendees**

Scott Laleman, Director of Technology, SSAISD Admin  
Michael Balderrama, Chief of Staff, SSAISD Admin  
Ruperto Becerra, Interim Chief Financial Officer, SSAISD Admin  
Jesse Martinez, Executive Director of Business & Finance, SSAISD Admin  
Chriselda Bazaldua, Principal, Shepard MS  
Gilbert Cavazos, Truancy Officer, South San HS  
Alex Sanchez, Teacher, South San HS  
Stacey Estrada, Community Member  
Sylvia Ortiz, Teacher, Price ES

**District Facilitators**

Delinda Castro, Chief Academic Officer, SSAISD Admin  
Lorraine De Leon, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, SSAISD Admin

## **Board of Trustees**

Angelina Osteguín, Board President

Linda Longoria, Board Secretary

Elda Flores, Board Trustee

Connie Prado, Board Trustee

## **Opening and Call to Action**

Mr. James Guillen opened the meeting with the SSAISD Call to Action.

## **Approve Minutes from the last meeting, February 23, 2017**

Dr. Gardner reviewed minutes from February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Minutes were approved.

## **District of Innovation Schools, Grand Prairie ISD**

Mrs. Rosanna Mercado led the Grand Prairie ISD presentation. Discussion on the observations of Grand Prairie's Schools of Choice. (24 campuses). These are stand alone schools with customized designs to serve various program choices. Grand Prairie has (42) campuses of which 24 are Schools of Choice.

**Grand Prairie's Fine Arts Academy** was a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy with low enrollment. It is the only advanced academics fine arts program in the region. Students take advanced courses such as Pre-AP, Advanced Placement and Dual credit courses. Candidates must meet 80% GPA, attendance and discipline requirements in order to qualify for auditions at the Academy. Presented by Lisa Wilburn.

**Dubiski Career High School** is a career- focused campus where students attain advanced certifications, industry trainings and internships & career field experiences. The culture of the school is one of professionalism and developing work place mindsets. Presented by Robert Blankenberg.

**Lorenzo de Zavala Environmental Science Academy** is an elementary campus where students are afforded opportunities in environmental sciences. The indoor features of the campus include: interactive wall displays, data collection stations, and 3-D biome habitats. Presented by Rosanna Mercado.

Angelina Osteguín, Board President, and Elda Flores, Board Trustee, shared their thoughts on the visit to Grand Prairie ISD.

## **GPIISD-District of Innovation**

### **Exemptions:**

- *Class Size Reduction TEC.25.112*
- *First Day of Instruction TEC25.0811*
- *Teacher Certification TEC21.003*
- *Minimum minutes of instruction TEC 25.081 (HB2610) 75, 600 minutes*

## **Committee Review of the Plan**

Dr. Gardner led the committee in reviewing each component of the Plan. The committee engaged in discussion and dialogue on each exemption.

## **Committee Vote on the Plan**

### ***Voted In favor of the Plan***

- Robert Blankenberg, Teacher, Zamora ES
- James Guillen, SE teacher, South San HS
- Lee Hernandez, Executive Principal, South San HS
- Xochitl Martinez Lozano, Early College Director, South San HS
- Lisa Wilburn, Music Teacher, Shepard MS
- Marisa Mendez, Principal, Kindred ES
- Rosanna Mercado, Principal, Zamora MS
- Gloria Galvan, Teacher, Price ES
- Katie Hellum, Teacher, Palo Alto ES
- Cynthia Hernandez, Teacher, Palo Alto ES
- Aja Gardner, Director of STEM & Advanced Academics
- Marcy Lockridge, Community Member
- Judy Delgado-Speer, Community Member

### ***Voted Against the Plan***

- Yvonne Cardona, Teacher, Carrillo ES
- Christina Minter, Librarian, Athens ES

### ***Abstained***

- Rudy Lopez, Community Member