

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF EXPLORING THE OPTION OF DESIGNATED SHINER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

Whereas, the 84th Legislature passed House Bill 1842 which provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as a District of Innovation; and

Whereas, Texas school districts designated as a District of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state requirements which affords traditional public school with many of the same freedoms that apply to open-enrollment charter schools; and

Whereas, the vision of Shiner ISD to produce students who are well-rounded and prepared to go forth and be successful as adults; and this legislation empowers local communities to be creative and innovative, while also providing greater local control in the decision making process; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees believes that decisions affecting the students of Shiner ISD are best made at the local level by those who are invested in our school district, and community; and

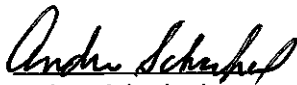
Whereas, Shiner ISD has adopted a District Improvement plan which supports local control; and

Whereas, HB 1842 requires districts seeking to be designated as a District of Innovation to develop a local innovation plan that allows for increased freedom from certain state mandates; and

Whereas, the Shiner Independent School District Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing and receive feedback from stakeholders to consider the development of a local innovation plan; following the public hearing the Board of Trustees may decline to peruse the designation or may appoint a committee to develop a plan in accordance with Chapter 12A of the Texas Education Code; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Shiner Independent School District initiates the process of exploring and considering the option of designating SISD as a District of Innovation under HB 1842.

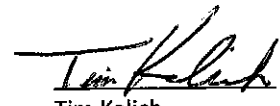
Witness these signatures on the 14th day of February 2018.



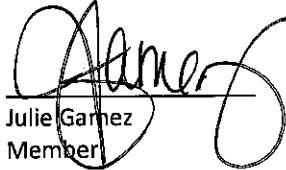
Andrew Schacherl
President, SISD Board



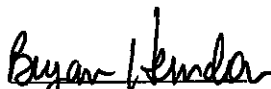
Dr. Dan Stafford
Vice President, SISD Board



Tim Kalich
Secretary, SISD Board



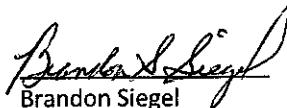
Julie Garnez
Member



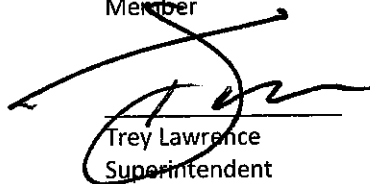
Bryan Herndon
Member



Tommy Schuette
Member



Brandon Siegel
Member



Trey Lawrence
Superintendent

SHINER ISD 143-903

SISD District of Innovation Plan

Shiner ISD is driven by the goals and objectives outlined in our district improvement plan, board goals, district mission statement, and community input. These factors drive all decisions regarding teaching and learning in SISD.

In order to better serve our students and align our learning to SISD goals, we have developed a five-year District of Innovation Plan to provide opportunities that allow the SISD Board of Trustees the ability to use their best judgment to make decisions regarding the students of SISD. Giving the board and administration local control of these decisions will provide lasting effects on our students, parents, and communities.

District of Innovation Plan

Term: The term of the plan is for five years, beginning August 1, 2018 and ending July 31, 2023, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If, within the terms of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of HB 1842, the Board will nominate a new committee to consider and propose additional exemptions in the form of an amendment. Any amendment adopted by the Board will adhere to the same term as the original plan. The District may not implement two separate plans at any one time.

A. Student to Teacher Ratio, Kinder- 4th

Submitting waivers for Kindergarten – Grade 4 class size (EEB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.112) (Ed. Code 25.113)

Currently Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes are to be kept at a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. Along with the waiver, it is a requirement that a letter be sent home to each parent in a classroom that exceeds the 22 to 1 ratio. Currently, SISD has experienced some growth especially in the lower grade levels. For this reason, SISD would like the flexibility of increasing this ratio without the “red tape” of filing a waiver.

Proposal: Although we certainly believe that smaller class size plays a positive role in a student’s education, there are exceptions when the student population experiences additional growth throughout the school year.

- a. SISD will attempt to keep all K-4 core classes to a 22:1 ratio. However, in the event the class size exceeds the ratio, the Superintendent will report this information to the Board of Trustees.
- b. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when the class size exceeds 22:1.
- c. SISD will be able to allow a class size of 25:1 in K-4 in the event 22:1 is exceeded.

B. Calendar – Adjust School Start, Need for Local Control (EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

Currently, students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. In the past districts were allowed to apply for a waiver which allowed districts to start at an earlier date. However, Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped. The SISD District Improvement Plan emphasizes the importance of learning, college and career readiness, and social/emotional learning. TEC Section 25.0811 inhibits these goals by prohibiting the District from beginning before the fourth Monday of August.

As the school calendar would fall for 2018-2019 SISD would begin school on August 27, resulting in the following issues:

1. No Semester Break in December, because of the loss of time. Doing so creates uneven Six Weeks grading periods.
2. The 2018-2019 School Year would not conclude before June 2019. This would create a conflict for students wanting a June enrollment into college.
3. Limits holidays and Staff development opportunities throughout the year if wanting to end the school year prior to June 2019.

Proposal: To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, we would like to move the start date one week earlier than currently mandated.

- a. Students would begin no earlier than the 3rd Monday of August.
- b. Teachers will begin no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.
- c. Allow students to complete semester requirements prior to Christmas break.
- d. Allows students to enroll in college classes in June.

C. Length of School Day (TEC 25.081)

State Law currently requires that all school days must be 420 minutes long each day in order to count for ADA calculations and funding purposes. All instructional minutes during the school year must accumulate to a minimum of 75,600.

Proposal: To allow the SISD calendar to add additional early release days throughout the school year.

- a. Allows for additional staff development opportunities throughout the year.
- b. Early Release days will be denoted in the school calendar.

D. Teacher/Administrator Appraisals (DNA LEGAL) (DNA LOCAL) (TEC 21.203) (TEC 21.352)(TEC.354)(TEC 21.3541)

The State of Texas has used the Professional Development and Appraisal System (PDAS) since 1997. The new Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) and the Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS) are now in place. Shiner ISD uses the PDAS tool as its required evaluation, as it best meets

our needs for a District the size of Shiner ISD. The tool in addition has been very effective as reflected in our current student success on mandatory State testing.

Proposal: To continue using PDAS in evaluating Teachers and Administrators.

- a. System would remain in place unless the District or a Campus fails to Meet Standard.
- b. Pre and Post Tests will be used in all Subjects to measure student improvement.

E. Inter-District Transfers (FDA LOCAL) (TEC 25.036)

Currently, under TEC 25.036, a District may choose to accept, as transfers, students who do not reside within the boundaries of the SISD School District. However, TEC 25.036 requires that the length of the transfer period must be the entirety of one school year.

Proposal: To allow SISD to revoke transfer agreements at any time that a student is not meeting the terms of the transfer agreement.

a. Shiner ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (LOCAL), requiring nonresident students to file a transfer application each school year. In considering transfer requests, the availability of space, instructional staff, the student's disciplinary history, academic performance, mandatory state testing results, and attendance are evaluated prior to granting a transfer.

b. Nonresident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfer students may have such transfer status revoked by the Superintendent at any time if the student has any of the following issues:

1. Poor attendance
2. Poor academic performance
3. Not meeting standard on State Mandated Tests
4. Disciplinary behavior that results in suspension, expulsion or DAEP

Summary

If approved by the Commissioner, the SISD District of Innovation Plan will help Shiner ISD better meet the needs of students, employees and the community. We also realize that the LOCAL policies affected will need to be revised. This plan was created from input of Educators, Administrators, Community Members, Parents and the SISD Board of Trustees.

Timeline

January 24, 2018- Initial Site Based/ Innovation Committee Meeting

January 31, 2018- Approval by Site Based/Innovation Committee to Proceed

February 14, 2018- Approval by SISD Board Of Trustees to Pursue Innovation Plan

February 14, 2018- Public Hearing Held for Discussion of a Possible Innovation Plan

February 14, 2018- Approval of a Resolution to Initiate the Process of Innovation Process

February 28, 2018- Public Hearing Held with SISD SOI Committee

February 28, 2018- Approval by SISD SOI Committee of SISD Innovation Plan

March 1, 2018 – Notification to TEA Commissioner of SISD’s Intent

March 1, 2018 – SISD Innovation Plan Posted on SISD Web Site