

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

October 25, 2016

Discussion of Legislative Priorities in preparation for the 85th Legislative Session

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; and, remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus.

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical.

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens’ advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this workshop is to continue the conversation with the Board of Trustees as they consider and identify the legislative priorities for the 85th Legislative Session.

Objectives:

During the workshop we will:

- Review the Board of Trustees’ legislative priorities identified for the 84th Legislative Session.
- Review the legislative priorities identified by educational associations such as the Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of School Boards, and Texas Association of School Business (to name a few) for the upcoming legislative session.

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- Continue to share and explore partnerships the District can engage/initiate in advocating for the needs of public schools serving our children.
- Gather feedback and suggestions from the Board of Trustees in preparation for the 85th Legislative Session.

Operational Impact:

Operational impact should be minimal; however, travel and related expenses may be involved in scheduling relative meetings with elected officials in representing the State & Federal Relations Committee or the Denton ISD Legislative Advisory Committee.

Results:

Advantages:

Establish legislative priorities for the Denton ISD aligned to Board goals as we advocate for our students and public education in Texas. Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our legislature may have significant impact to policies directly impacting public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares voters as they consider policies impacting public education. Partnering with the State & Federal Relations Committee and other such organizations reflects a strong partnership within the Denton community, which supports public education.

Disadvantages:

None noted.

Other Options:

None noted.