

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

August 25, 2020

Discussion of Legislative Priorities in Preparation of the 87th Legislative Session

Board Goals:

Teaching and Learning – Develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates; cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments supporting all students; establish high expectations with a curriculum fostering inquiry, critical thinking, civic responsibility and exemplary citizenship; cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; incorporate best practices into teaching, learning, technology and leadership; foster and support an advanced digital learning environment; and, establish goals for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors.

Culture and Climate – Honor the dedication and professionalism of all staff; celebrate, respect and promote the value of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; support a working environment ensuring open and transparent communication; establish high expectations for success; instill in students a love of lifelong learning; foster a positive, welcoming environment encouraging parent and community partnerships; promote health, wellness and emotional well-being; and, effectively communicate achievements and recognitions to the Denton ISD community

Growth and Management – Recruit, employ and retain high quality teachers; remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus; work with the community in planning and facility development; utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; adjust policies and procedures to address rapid growth and changing demographics, nurturing our strong sense of community; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal and regulatory requirements; encourage teachers and staff to pursue advanced degrees; pursue energy efficiency and conservation principles; develop a budget focused on student and professional learning; and, maintain a diverse workforce

Opportunities for Students – Support college, career, military, and life readiness; engage students in extracurricular clubs and organizations; advocate for public education across the state and nation; and, develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this workshop is to review legislative priorities from the 86th Legislative Session and begin discussion with the Board of Trustees in consideration of outline their legislative priorities for the 87th Legislative Session.

Objectives:

During the workshop we will:

- Review the Board of Trustees' legislative priorities previously identified for the 86th Legislative Session (see attached)
- Briefly review the resolutions our Board of Trustees approved and submitted to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) in July of this year (see attached)
- Gather feedback and suggestions from the Board of Trustees in preparation for the 87th Legislative Session in consideration of our legislative priorities

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 engaging discussions with our elected officials 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.

Staff Responsible:

Dr. Gwen Perkins, Area Superintendent

Deron Robinson, General Counsel