

Dallas Baptist University College of Education and Denton ISD
Principal Residency Program
Memorandum of Understanding

June 9, 2020

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Dallas Baptist University (DBU) and Denton ISD (DISD) to establish a partnership for the design and implementation of a graduate cohort partnership that will allow District employees to obtain a Master of Education in Educational Leadership degree (the “master’s program”) through DBU’s College of Education.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- DISD and DBU have been in frequent communication regarding this partnership.
- The proposed MOU meets the requirements established by the District.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

- A decision to not approve this MOU will require DISD to deny the Principal Residency Grant Program funds provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The Request for Grant Funds from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and acceptance of such funds requires DISD to match amount of \$150,000.00 (10 principal residents participating in program x \$15,000). TEA will provide DISD \$700,000.00 for payroll costs, professional and contracted services, supplies, materials, and other operating costs.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Denton ISD will work closely with Dallas Baptist University staff and professors as a partner to co-design and develop a dynamic, sustainable, rigorous and hands-on leadership pipeline that intentionally interweaves the district DNA (mindsets, skillsets and toolsets) with the state principal as instructional leader competencies. Selected interns will start their residency year in the summer of 2020 taking three foundational classes. All classes will be taught in Denton and customized for Denton ISD. These first classes will help set the theoretical and practical foundations for clinical experiences. Interns will apply the new skills during the summer through projects and live application in their schools. The interns will discover and develop their unique attributes and strengths (Gallup Strengths Coaching) while exploring and developing new ideas around the Texas Association of School Administrators’ School Transformation Framework. The residency will use a gradual release model where interns will observe, then participate and then lead in many different instructional and operational aspects of the school. During the residency, interns will be involved in solving real, challenging and substantive issues faced by school leaders.
- Interns will learn and perform extensive practice in the area of instructional leadership. They will work with grade level or content area teachers to lead professional learning communities (PLC) as they analyze student needs and develop better instructional practices to meet those needs. Interns will be deeply involved in the implementation and analysis of district curriculum assessments and benchmarks. They will learn how to “interrogate the TEKS” and lead teachers through that process to ensure lesson alignment with the TEKS.
- Denton ISD and DBU will have designed a wide range of experiences throughout the full cycle of the school year to give the full-time residents the vital experiences and continuous feedback from both site and university supervisors. The program is customized to fully prepare residents with the knowledge and skills required by the Texas Principal as Instructional Leader Competencies and to pass the certification exams while uniquely preparing these residents with the culture and mindsets of Denton ISD.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- DISD provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. DISD provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. DISD provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this grant will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed at this time.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

- It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the MOU with Dallas Baptist University.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Daniel Lopez, Executive Director, Human Resources

ATTACHMENT:

- Memorandum of Understanding

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____