

DRAFT
Beeville ISD
Board Goals Committee Meeting
September 26, 2006
3:30 p.m.

Agenda

- Goodies and Welcome
- Introductions
- Responsibilities
- Plans for goals one through four
- Questions
- Next step

2006-2007 Board Goals

The following represents the work of the Beeville ISD Board of Trustees on March 28, 2006, to provide the Board and Superintendent of Schools direction and priorities for the 2006-2007 school year. The process for determining goals included a facilitator from the Education Service Center, Region II. The Superintendent will attempt to address all of the goals, report progress intermittently, and provide a summary at the time of the annual evaluation.

The goals for 2006-2007 are to:

- Develop a plan for increasing documentation that reveals the District's success in retaining students in school and follow up on their progress after high school
- Develop a plan to educate staff on chain of command, role of the board, and code of ethics
- Increase the number of students participating and the scores in Advanced Placement, plus additional dual credit courses as we continue to raise scores on the state and standardized tests
- Develop and implement a plan for parent and community support for education
- Study the master plan and develop a plan for increased efficiency of operations

Progress

Board Goal # 1: Develop a plan for increasing documentation that reveals the District's success in retaining students in school and follow up on their progress after high school

Service Includes:

- ◆ 3 Surveys – The school submits the questions for each survey.
 - 1) Senior Survey – conducted before graduation
 - 2) Initial Graduate Survey – conducted during the first year after HS graduation
 - 3) Advanced Graduate Survey – conducted the fourth year after HS graduation
- ◆ 5 Public Relations Letters – 3 letters to be sent with each survey and two to be sent the years a survey is not conducted
- ◆ 1-800-REUNION
 - Students are able to call or go on-line and update their information: name, address, phone number
- ◆ Follow-Up calls – a minimum of 3 telephone calls will be attempted for every student who has not returned the survey
- ◆ Before each publication, the company compares their mailing lists to the United States Postal Service's forwards incase students move but do not update their addresses with Life Tracks
- ◆ Reports for each survey

The cost is \$15 per senior!

This particular company averages 61% post graduate response.

Additional research areas to focus on:

- ◆ Questions
 - What happens if the phone number is not working when they make the phone calls?
 - What are the percentages of participation during the initial and advanced survey?
- ◆ References – High Schools who use this service
- ◆ Other companies who provide the same service for comparison

Dr. Hardwick,

I just wanted to let you know the status of my research of the Life-Track Program.

I e-mailed the company on July 31, 2006 asking them for information about their services. The questions asked were:

What happens if the phone number is not working when they make the phone calls? Do they attempt to research another number for the student? What are the percentages of participation during the initial and advanced survey? Also, I asked for a list of references that use the program.

I have not received any information back from them, however. On their website, they listed some references and I searched for the schools and phone numbers. I tracked 7 of the numbers down and made contact with 6 of them. Only one of the six still uses the program. I have not been able to speak with the person who oversees it. A Brazosport ISD school official said that their high schools were not utilizing the information so they stopped using Life-Track Services. I left a message with Kempner HS and the secretary called me back with a message from the principal that they no longer used the program but did not have an explanation. Two schools have not returned my call and the other two schools, no one had any knowledge of every using the program.

I have also tried to search for other companies that provide the same or similar services but have not been successful.

Incentive plans in other districts:

Sinton ISD

The exemption from finals policy states that if the student has passed TAKS in a core subject area he/she is exempt from the final if in that same area if he/she meets attendance, behavior and grade requirements. Another project they do is they have what are called "pirate bucks". Teachers keep a stack of them and anyone caught doing good is given one. They put the student's name on it and put it in a treasure chest we have in the office and we have weekly, six week, semester and end of the year drawings for prizes. They also give each teacher 5 postcards with stamps each semester to send home with something good about their kids on the back.

If a student has perfect attendance his/her senior year the board supplies a \$250 scholarship; with perfect attendance senior and junior years \$500; senior, junior and sophomore years \$750, and so on. Last year they had two girls get \$1000 and 4 boys get \$250. He never got back with me on how they pay for this, but I think it must be from local funds. Sinton ISD pays for this with local funds and the scholarship money is sent directly to the college. It is not given to the student.

Aransas Pass ISD

The High School has uses Mock exams that they do every January where they set up the campus just like it was real TAKS and dismiss the Seniors for a couple of hours. If the students make a high enough passing mark, they are exempt from having to attend mandatory tutorials. This gives them about 30 minutes per day off. Some of their teachers also use the student's scores on the mock exam to possibly replace a semester test score. They have a new principal this year and some of this may change.

She told me about a plan that Lamesa ISD does. They put in an "internal standard" for all non-gateway year grade levels or tests----students had to not only pass their required report cards but also pass the TAKS or a local retest at the 1SEM level—in other words, to help get the kids attention in grades 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. They give students two more chances to retest before they are held back. This last school year is the first time they put it in place and all of their students improved.

Aransas County ISD

They offer their campuses monetary awards for attendance incentives, like we do. The following summarizes it.

Attendance Incentives (as per the business office)

Criteria:

*PK-5 – established goal – 97%

*6-12 – established goal – 96%

Award Process:

*At the end of each semester the campus with the highest attendance receives \$500

*Incrementally, each tenth of a percentage point reached above the goal receives \$100

*The grade level per campus that reaches this established goal per week receives \$50

They also have an exemption policy for students.

The only 2 classes that freshmen have the opportunity to exempt are English and Math. The exemptions are for the final exam in the spring only. The freshmen may exempt either or both of these exams by meeting all of the following requirements:

1. Scoring a 2200 or better on the TAKS test for that subject area.
2. Having no more than 3 absences in that class for the entire school year.

This does not include medical exempt absences marked 'd' or 'm'.

3. Having no discipline issues that result in ISS, OSS, or DAEP for the entire school year.
4. Having no unpaid fines or fees of any kind.

SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

The only 4 classes that sophomores & juniors have the opportunity to exempt are English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The exemptions are for the final exam in the spring only. The sophomores & juniors may exempt any and all of these exams by meeting all of the following requirements:

1. Scoring a 2200 or better on the TAKS test for that subject area.
2. Having no more than 3 absences in that class for the entire school year.

This does not include medical exempt absences marked 'd' or 'm'.

3. Having no discipline issues that result in ISS, OSS, or DAEP for the entire school year.
4. Having no unpaid fines or fees of any kind.

SENIORS

Seniors may exempt ANY and ALL final exams (including those for fall one-semester courses) by meeting all of the following requirements:

1. Having no discipline issues that result in ISS, OSS, or DAEP for the entire school year.
2. Having no unpaid fines or fees of any kind.
3. Having no more than 3 absences for the entire school year with an average of 90 or greater

OR

Having no more than 2 absences for the entire school year with an average of 80 – 89

OR

Having no more than 1 absence for the entire school year with an average of 75 – 79.

This does not include medical exempt absences marked 'd' or 'm'.

Board Goal # 2: Develop a plan to educate staff on chain of command, role of the board, and code of ethics

- Explanation of board policy and respective roles of staff, board, and administration (this could include concerns are realities if we fail to adhere to our roles which could include the spirit and letter of FNG and DGBA local)—by Sara Leon at back to school event
- A card for all board members allowing them to have information readily available to direct concerned contacts to the correct staff member to follow policy—from Superintendent's office at back to school event
- Superintendent visiting with each of the building leadership teams (BLTs) to stress the need to better align our actions to policy
- Use our campus chats that meshes well with our fourth board goal to share the concept of our policy FNG (local) related to parent/student complaints
- A survey to be completed by staff to determine their understanding of our policy (DGBA) related to addressing concerns (end of year)

Board Goal # 3: Increase the number of students participating and the scores in Advanced Placement, plus additional dual credit courses as we continue to raise scores on the state and standardized tests

9/25/06

Thank you for meeting with me today on the AP, PreAp and Dual Credit. I think we got a lot accomplished and I look forward to working with you more on this in the next few months. We made some good plans for addressing the board goal and for working on these areas this school year.

We agreed that we are trying to achieve through these courses more opportunities for students to save money and earn more college credits, while still in high school. We are already doing a lot, but Heather and Joe will call some other schools and ask them how many dual credit and AP courses they offer their students. That will help us to compare and go forth with additional courses. I have contacted the people who do videoconferences at ESC2 about dual credit courses. I know they are offering schools the opportunity to have dual credit courses through videoconference, but I have asked for more details. I will share these as soon as I receive them.

There are some challenges to both types of courses (AP or dual). For dual credit at CBC, there are conflicts with the high school's master schedule. For dual credit courses offered on the high school, the master schedule is not a problem, but getting the teachers with the proper credentials (master's degree plus 18 hours in the subject) has proven to be difficult. We have a math teacher working on this. We have tried to two years to get an English teacher with these credentials, but we have not been able to do it. Both AP and dual credit may or may not be accepted at certain colleges. State schools in Texas accept both AP scores and dual credit from community colleges. Private colleges and out of state colleges may or may not. The main challenge with AP courses is that the college credit is offered based on one test on one day.

Another challenge with these courses is that, although we are offering them to give students opportunities to receive college credit, many students take the courses for ranking purposes. We all agreed that we will do what we can to have successful experiences for our students on our campuses, but that once students step on the campus of Coastal Bend College or any college, they must follow the guidelines and rules there.

Moreno and AC Jones will work on communication tools in the form of a tri-fold flyer. One will be entitled something like “Dual credit, Ap or both?” and another one entitled “PreAP or Regular?” The second one is for the junior high school. In these flyers the districts’ plans will be set forth, including the fact that these are offered for giving students credit at college, not for ranking. As soon as these are ready, we will share them with you.

Mr. Reyes and Mrs. Blankenship will meet on September 7 to work out some other details, such as contracts for students in AP and PreAP courses, course expectations, how to handle parental issues, etc. They will get back to us on what they decide. In addition, we will meet with the PreAP and AP teachers from both campuses on September 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the AC Jones Lecture hall to discuss the expectations and philosophy for these courses. Each campus principal will meet again with their staff and then we will have another joint meeting in the spring with staff from both schools.

The state is now reimbursing for week-long summer training for PreAP or AP teachers up to \$450. Both schools will work to get more teachers trained. In addition, the AP teachers must complete a course audit this year for the College Board. Part of the audit is to complete a course syllabus, following the College Board’s guidelines. We will work on a staff development day for the AP and possibly PreAP teachers to complete this syllabus.

As more information is developed, I will pass it along. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue, including the board goal, with you. Thanks!

Nancy

Board Goal # 4: Develop and implement a plan for parent and community support for education

- Continue to monitor and support Crystal Clear on our web site
- Begin the concept of “Campus Chat”-a process to allow two board members to join the superintendent at monthly meetings on each campus to discuss district challenges and celebrations
- Look for more opportunities to use our local media (newspaper and radio) to share the celebrations of BISD
- Continue to look for opportunities to be visible at the various student activities inside and outside the district
- Etc.?