

District of Innovation Meeting Minutes from Jan 18th Meeting

1. Committee members signed-in and Mrs. Hudgins introduced the purpose of the meeting

2. Mrs. Hudgins discussed the District of Innovation timeline as it pertains to public hearing, school board, and district staff input

3. Mrs. Hudgins discussed the three options for EBISD's District of Innovation Plan:
 - A. Locally Planned Calendar
 - B. Teacher Certification Options
 - C. Student-Teacher Ratio in grades K-4

4. Mrs. Hudgins discussed the planning and options that would be considered with a locally planned calendar

5. Committee members discussed the need for local control of calendar options; Members shared that students seem to be less focused when having to do go to school into June--more down time after State Assessments; Members shared that students perform better on semester tests when able to finish semester before Christmas Break; Having a schedule that finishes the first semester before Christmas parallels more closely to college schedules; Student mobility over the Holiday Break doesn't affect the educational process as much when the semester ends before Christmas; Student attendance is improved by ending the semester

before Christmas Break and extracurricular activities are not disrupted as much

6. Mrs. Hudgins and Committee discussed the benefits of innovative strategies for Teacher Certification; Mrs. Hudgins explained various situations in which we could utilize local certifications that could benefit students at EBISD; Benefits of being able to offer varied CTE courses were discussed

7. Mrs. Hudgins and Committee discussed the benefits of being able to adopt controls with the K-4 student/teacher ratio of 22:1; Mr. Gaudette, East Bernard Elementary principal, said that he saw no danger in adding this to our District of Innovation plan; EBISD would be cognizant of class size and believes that small class sizes contribute to a better instructional plan and positive classroom environment

8. Mrs. Hudgins discussed the next step in the District of Innovation plan, advised of a possible public hearing with the committee within the next week, and adjourned the meeting.