

**Ortiz Middle School  
SDMC Meeting  
January 24, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

S. Dominguez, Principal	M. Arvizu, School-based staff
T. Garcia, Chairperson	A. Benitez, Non-instructional staff
R. Denson, Teacher	D. Steen, Non-member
D. Williams, Teacher	A. Canales, Non-member
E. Hart, Teacher	R. Booher, Non-member
R. Reyes, Community Member	J. Brown, Non-member
E. Mayo, School-based staff	T. Eveline, non-member

Ms. T. Garcia opened the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Mr. Dominguez and Ms. Garcia welcomed the members to the meeting. Ms. T. Garcia read the minutes from the October 2017 meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

**IB Update**

Ms. T. Garcia gave an update on the IB program and status toward authorization. Ms. Garcia mentioned that the IB verification visit that took place in November went well. Mr. Dominguez stated that we received numerous commendations for our commitment to the program. We also received several recommendations that must be in place before the 5-year evaluation visit. We have only one item to be addressed which pertains to the number of instructional hours documented through IB unit planners. Ms. Garcia told the committee that all teachers have been working on their unit planners and the campus deadline is set for January 31<sup>st</sup> so that the item can be submitted to the IB organization in February. Mr. Dominguez stated he felt confident that once the item is submitted we will be confirmed as an authorized IB school.

**Magnet Update**

Ms. Garcia read an update on our magnet program provided by Ms. Mesa, Magnet Coordinator. Mr. Dominguez then informed the committee that the superintendent is proposing changes to the district's magnet program. Principals were informed Tuesday that the main goal is to make magnet programs accessible to underserved areas of the city. The district has not developed a solid specific plan. At this time, we know that our program will change but we don't know how.

The idea that is being circulated is to divide the district into quadrants. Magnet programs will be available to students within each quadrant. Right now, any student can attend whatever program they are accepted to attend and the district provides transportation for that child. With quadrants, students would not have to travel long distances but could stay relatively close to home yet still have access to magnet programs.

**Parent Involvement**

In November, approximately 50 parents attended our Family Tech Night, during which parents learned about technology applications that students may have access to on their phones and internet and social media safety. Parents provided feedback that the session was informative because they were not aware that students had access to so many apps that may/may not be appropriate.

Ms. Booher stated that she is looking into the system to update our records and waiting for the district to purge some of the information because so much of the data in the system is inaccurate.

Mr. Dominguez said that we were not chosen as a pilot school for the district's new wraparound services. Wraparound services is based on the philosophy that you should address the whole child (food, medical, social services, etc.) to help students. The program would provide a social worker who could help parents/families connect to programs/services. The social worker would contact social service agencies. In the future, the idea is for a service center on campus where medical staff could come to campus and serve the community with immunizations, health checks, health screenings, etc.

Mr. Steen commented that certain businesses may want to help. He suggested having parents and teachers approach local businesses that may be able to provide the school with services or funds in exchange for recognition. Mr. Dominguez said that is doable and can provide the letter. Mr. Steen agreed to take the initiative in getting this started. Any money that is donated must be given to Ms. Orquiz/Ms. Nguyen according to HISD policy. Mr. Steen asked for members to share ideas with him and he will begin working on it.

### **Other Issues**

**PEG Letter** – We are required to send a PEG letter, Public Education Grant, home to parents. The law states that if there is a school that is low performing in any one area for any two out of three years, the school must send a letter home notifying parents that they have an option to send their child to a different school. We are currently in that position with Social Studies. Mr. Dominguez emphasized that we are not an IR school, but in that particular subject (social studies) we are underperforming. If we perform at the expected level this year, we will not be required to send a letter next year. The letter that must be sent this year in February will inform parents of our status, that they have the right to transfer their student to another school, and will include a list of schools available.

**District Changes** – The district is facing several changes proposed by the superintendent. The current funding system called PUA, per unit allocation, will be changed to an FTE model (full time equivalent), moving us from a decentralized system to a centralized system. In previous years, principals received funds (except for salaries), to make decisions for their campus that best serve the needs of students. The FTE model does not have that flexibility. Principals will not get the budget as they have traditionally received. They will receive allocations based on a ratio. The ratio that is being discussed is 30:1, including electives. This is a proposal that is being discussed; the actual plan is not finalized. This is Draft 1 of the changes. Committee meetings will take place at the district level and the drafts will be revised. The final plan will be put before the board for their approval. A lot of people are concerned about whether or not they will have a job next year. Mr. Dominguez does not have an answer because the plan is still unknown. The district has asked for everyone to be patient. As soon as Mr. Dominguez gets more facts, he will inform staff so that everyone has the facts and will not go by assumptions or rumor. Ms. Mayo clarified that the 30:1 is for the number of teachers per campus, not to determine class sizes. Ms. Brown asked if there was a date, but there is not. Mr. Dominguez assured the committee that he will keep everyone updated as he gets more information.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.