

Board Report Item
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
March 21, 2017

Legislative Update – Denton County Days
February 28 – March 1, 2017

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; and, remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus.

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical.

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens’ advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Trustees on our partnership with the State and Federal Joint Commission with Denton County. This report also references for pending legislation as related to public education.

Objectives:

Denton ISD hosted a legislative conversation with members of the Public Education Team on Thursday, February 16th, at 3:00 p.m. at the District offices. Bill Gumbert and Dr. Cathy Bryce were invited to participate in this conversation because of their expertise and knowledge of legislative issues. Denton ISD Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and local Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) legislative committee members were also invited. The meeting was an opportunity for the team to get to know one another, review the District’s legislative priorities, and hear from some of the experts in legislation related to public education.

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Feedback from the participants indicated this conversation was valuable in developing an understanding of legislative issues public schools face. ATPE and PTA shared their organization's legislative priorities with the group as well.

Denton County Days, February 28 – March 1, 2017:

The Public Education Team, a subcommittee of the State and Federal Joint Relations Committee, arrived in Austin, Texas, on Tuesday, February 28th, 2017, to participate in Denton County Days. The members of the Public Education Team who participated in legislative visits were:

- Barbara Burns, Denton ISD School Board President
- Michele Barber, Vice President of Marketing, Guaranty Bank and Trust
- Glen Farris, Sales and Leasing for Verus Advisors
- Gwendolyn M. Perkins, Area Superintendent of Academic Programs
- Dr. Richard Valenta, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Members of the Public Education Team who were unable to participate were:

- Dr. Jamie Wilson, Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Wilson was invited to provide testimony to the House of Representatives Committee for Public Education.
- Ray David, Jr., President of Point Bank: Mr. David was unable to participate in our legislative visits.
- Kevin Roden, Chief Implementation Office for Pascal Learning and Denton City Councilman: Mr. Roden was unable to participate in Denton County Days due to weather delays in Utah.

The Public Education Team was able to visit with the legislative officials and/or staff members on Tuesday, February 28th, 2017. Michele Barber and Glen Farris were passionate in their support for public education. Their comments were well received by the legislative officials and staff members. The Denton ISD Legislative Priorities were shared with each official as well and a follow up e-mail of appreciation was sent to each office visited, which included a digital copy of the legislative priorities. See itinerary attached. Representatives Fallon and Stucky requested that our team members contact their office to share thoughts and implications of specific bills impacting public education.

It was noted by many that the Denton County Days draw the highest level of participation each year. The legislative delegates also participated in a reception on Tuesday evening, as well as breakfast on Wednesday morning. Each legislative delegate was invited to address the Denton

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County Days group to share an overview of the issues rising to the surface for each of their offices.

In support of our community partnership and Denton County, other members of our Board of Trustees participated on the following State and Federal Joint Relations Committees during the Denton County Days at the Capitol:

- Doug Chadwick – Higher Education Team
- Charles Stafford – Local Control Team
- Dorothy Martinez – Small Business Team

Friday, March 10, 2017, will be the deadline for filing bills for this session.

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the Senate Committee on Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C530>

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the House Committee on Public Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C410>

Texas Legislature Online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Operational Impact:

Operational impact for participation in the Denton County Days in Austin, Texas included related travel, accommodations, and meal expenses for this event.

Results:

Advantages:

Support our partnership with Denton County as we advocate for legislation, which supports the communities of Denton County and the Denton Independent School District. Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our legislature 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

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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.