

SDMC Minutes  
March 23, 2006

X	Allie Copony		BJ White	X	Amy Thompson
X	Cynthia Krohn	X	Herman Jadloski		Cynthia Conwell
X	Delinda Holland		Laura Nelly Gamez		Karim Seminario
	Frank Cruse	X	Margaret Preston	X	Laura Jennett
X	Jacqueline Richard	X	Steve Siebenaler	X	Rebecca DeLaRosa
Guests					
X	Tony D'Angelo				

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 for the purpose of discussing waivers and bell schedules for next year.

The bell schedule choices have been narrowed down to two schedules: a block and a traditional. These will be presented to SDMC soon.

Waltrip received an extension on waivers because Mr. Siebenaler was out with pneumonia.

Discussion on waivers:

**Waiver # 1 Faculty Advisory Committee - Shared Decision Making Committee**

The Shared Decision Making Committee will replace the Faculty Advisory Committee as the decision making body for the school.

1. The SDMC is a more representative body (including parents, business and community leaders, and non-certified staff members, as well as faculty and school-based staff) than the FAC, which is composed of faculty members and the principal.
2. The two parents are elected by the PTA and are not employees of HISD, The non-instructional staff elects the one non-instructional staff representative. The eight faculty members and four other certified personnel will be nominated and elected to two-year terms with half elected each year.
3. Students benefit because parents, community leaders, and business representatives will have a voice in the decision-making for the school

There was no discussion on this waiver.

**Waiver #2 Final Exam Exemption**

During the spring semester of their senior year only, seniors may earn an exemption from the final exam of a course if they meet the following criteria:

1. an 85 or better semester average in the course;
2. at least an "S" in conduct average in the course; and
3. no more than two total absences in each class.

The discussion included questions regarding exemptions for students other than seniors. Mrs. Preston stated that she thought HISD would not approve any other final exam waivers. Discussion also included incentives for passing Benchmark and End-of-Course

exams. The committee agreed to look into other possible exemptions, as an example, students passing TAKS being exempt from finals.

### **Waiver #3 Attendance Reporting Schedule on Testing Days**

Allow for flexible scheduling each day during the spring administration of TAKS and Stanford 10 for those students who are not testing. Only students testing would report to school at the regular bell schedule time. The purpose is to create a quieter, uninterrupted testing climate with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement.

The discussion on this waiver surrounded mainly including the freshmen on late arrival during TAKS week when they only take one test. The decision was made to check on the possibility of late arrival affecting other students besides seniors.

### **Waiver #4 Whole Course Credit**

Whole Course Credit (composite grading) applied to core classes only (A & B sequential) with the exception of any one semester course. A student must have a 65-69 fall semester average in the course. A student who fails the second semester is not eligible for whole course credit. A student must have a total of 140 points from both semesters with the second being a 70 or more.

Discussion centered around the appearance that this approach is effective; however, data has not been kept to know whether it is working.

### **Waiver # 5 Professional Development Late Arrival Waiver**

Students will arrive late to campus (1 hour) one day weekly to provide sufficient time for Professional Development. It will allow the ability to meet in academies, departments, specific disciplines within core subjects so staff can discuss students (data), and quality teaching and learning. Schedule for students will be as follows (to be inserted later)

Discussion included the fact that the Wednesday schedule does not work. This schedule is too challenging for teachers and students and puts too much distance between instructional days. "Banking Time" is another option that would eliminate late arrival and allow for an early dismissal day each week. If we release the students at 12:30 on one day, the 3 hours have to be made up in the other days, Essentially, 4 days are 45 minutes longer to accommodate the early arrival. This type of schedule allows for a much larger block of time for planning and collaboration.

Discussion also included the idea that informal and formal meetings are required outside of the Wednesday hour meeting to make collaboration work. We need a bell schedule that will accomplish more collaboration time than currently exists.

We have to coordinate early dismissal days or late arrival days with our feeder pattern schools. Our bell schedule for next year must include more sections; more collaboration time, time for in-school interventions, SAT/TAKS preparations, and double blocking of some classes. We need to reduce the student-teacher ratio. We will not have 900 minutes of planning every two weeks next year. We will not be able to add teachers as the budget

currently stands. Unfortunately, the funding formulas work against us. We have too few Title 1 Students but have a better AYP than other schools our size and get \$500,000 less than other schools. Lee, which is 91% Free & Reduced has 8 assistant principals with minimally more students than we have.

We must change, so what are we going to do? The district is insisting on no 90-minute conference periods every day, so how are we going to change? The idea behind reform is that if we are implementing the collaboration, common assessment, literacy strategies, SIOP strategies, then we will see improvement. When you look at the data that we are judged by, we are one of the best comprehensive high schools around. But, our bell schedule still isn't working.

**Waiver #6 November Holidays**

(text to be provided later) Essentially, this waiver allows the staff to return two days early in August to cover the two professional development days scheduled the week of Thanksgiving.

All concurred.

**Waiver # 7 Early Dismissal**

(text to be provided later) Essentially, this waiver allows for 5 early dismissal dates to be scheduled during the year.

All concurred on this waiver as well.

The next meeting was tentatively set for April 5, 2006 at 7:30 AM.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.