

West Texas ISD/MC Area P-16 Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19, 2007
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Present: Virginia Belew, Rita Brady, Ruth Campbell, Terry Clemmer, Lael, Cordes-Pitts, David Daniel, Rita Nell Diffie, Olivia Fierro, James Fuller, Robbyne Fuller, Ryan Gibbs, Bronda Goates, Rebecca Gonzalez, Patti Groce, Robert Haines, Kerry Hoover, Stephanie Howard, Richard Jolly, Patrick Jones, Joseph Leyva, Denna Lindsey, Pat Lyons, William Maurer, Susan McClendon, Ron Moss, Betty Newman, Stacy Payne, Rex Peebles, Jennifer Pender, Sylvester Perez, Ema Rivera, Deana Savage, Dale Wiley, Doug Young, and D'Laine Young

David Daniel started the meeting by welcoming the Council members to Midland College. He expressed the importance of working together to create a better educational system for all students. He stated that “we can’t afford not to move in this direction...”

Richard Jolly also welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. He gave an overview of P-16 Councils’ purpose and history. The Council members agreed that this Council be known as the West Texas ISD/Midland College Area P-16 Council. Richard Jolly also announced the regional P-16 Council will be held at the Education Service Center on Friday, October 19 beginning at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Richard Jolly presented a generic set of bylaws taken from a variety of other councils. The bylaws include the mission statement; goals; representation, selection and participation; meetings; voting; membership year; executive committee; and committees. There are nine goals of which one was revised. Voting procedures were discussed amongst council members but a consensus is yet to be reached. A revised draft set of bylaws will be presented at the next meeting.

Rex Peebles led those present in a discussion of challenges and opportunities they faced. The following were presented to the group for discussion: (1) Curriculum Alignment - aligns high school and college curriculum; (2) Bridge Programs - prepares students (the summer after graduation) for higher education enrollment in the Fall; (3) College Readiness - preparation in study skills and habits, soft skills, and the cultural change from high school to college; (4) College Connection - prepares students and parents with counseling, financial aid advice; (5) Dual Enrollment - permits student to take college courses simultaneously with high school classes; (6) Math/Science - to increase interest in the Math and Science areas; and (6) Professional Development – training reaching across the spectrum of education K-16. The participants added (1) Career readiness – skills needed for employment; (2) Communications – reading, writing, and oral skill necessary to success both in college and the workplace; (3) Teacher preparation; and Technology literacy – the skills necessary to function in a technological world. Participants were asked to vote on the top three priorities among those topics discussed. Committees will be formed of interested parties to address those issues.

Dale Wiley distributed a copy of an article “America’s Teaching Crisis” published in the Democracy Journal.org.

Council members concurred that the next West Texas ISD/MC Area P-16 Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. More information about the meeting will be communicated as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.