

Superintendent's Communications Council
Campus Questions
January 19, 2023

ELEMENTARY

Birdville

- 1. Just wondering if there might be anything in the budget for a Spring bonus for teachers?** Probably the big no, but the salaries are not in keeping with inflation.

A. At this time, there are no plans for a Spring bonus.

Green Valley & Porter (questions combined)

- 2. Why are we having to work on January 2nd which is a federal holiday?** New Year's Day is Sunday so observed on Monday. **Why couldn't the PD/Prep be on Tuesday, 1/3?**

A. All these scenarios are discussed in our calendar committee meetings. These dates are usually coordinated with our Professional Learning department.

Green Valley only

- 3. Has there been any thought given to starting school in August on a Monday rather than Friday for teachers?** Returning on Friday makes day care difficult for some.

A. All these scenarios are discussed in our calendar committee meetings. This year's calendar reflects a mid-week start for teachers. We continue to evaluate this thought as we go forward.

- 4. Is there a plan to remove the extra minutes off of each day and return to a pre-COVID schedule?** Some districts attend up to a half hour less than we do per day.

A. We will be keeping the additional days in order to help support our students academically, as well as build up minutes in the event of a bad weather day.

Porter

- 5. During the times of the year where there are high numbers of sick kids and the nurse's office being overwhelmed with students, has there ever been any thought to provide assistance to nurses to assist with the high volume of students and reports that have to be made for each student?**

A. We have resource nurses that float to cover nurse's absences as well as spikes in nurse office visits. We try to use sub nurses if available as well.

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ELEMENTARY (continued)
Snow Heights

6. What is the district's process as well as future plan for overflow students?

Our campus has received several students from various elementaries across the district this year. While we are happy to provide a classroom for them, there has been a strain caused to the campus due to the needs of the students. Some overflow students have been identified as Special Ed which increases the caseload of the Resource teacher. At our campus staffing in February 2022 we were allotted one Resource teacher and one Resource Educational Assistant. This would have been sufficient with the projection of students for the following school year (2022-2023). In May 2022, the number of Resource students projected was 18 and that number has now grown to 34 (and growing) with several of the students being overflow. Scheduling the services needed for all SpEd students, meeting all IEP requirements (many inclusion minutes), and preparing/attending ARDs has come quite cumbersome for just one teacher and EA. In addition to the staffing issue, many overflow students utilize district transportation. In our experience, students that miss the bus in the morning rarely come to school that day which causes a decrease in the campus attendance rate. In the afternoon, students are on campus until after 4:00 PM waiting on the bus to pick them up to return home. As a campus, we have to find personnel to supervise these studentse (M(P)1 (M)-3 ()5 ((udent)-3 (s)-1 (-1e t) (M1 (e s) (M1 (3 (s)e-3 (es

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ELEMENTARY (continued)

Spicer (#7 continued)

- A. Project Based Learning is not a requirement but is offered as a choice for specific daily lessons for science and social studies.** In each case the project is aligned to the TEKS and is accounted for in the scope and sequence and unit pacing guides. The optional biome projects in science are available in grades 1–4. Social Studies projects are available K–5 in multiple units. Of note in Social Studies, if the optional project investigates the culture of students, input from families would be needed. The projects do not have a required homework element.

In terms of the 12 Days of Innovation, the presenters have shared positive learning experiences they have experienced facilitating with students. The 12 Days of Innovation focuses on efforts to improve and innovate all learning experiences for students continuously, based on formal and informal research. Twelve Days of Innovation does not try to mandate Project-Based Learning, but it advocates for the inclusion of PBL teaching method elements that align with our district's instructional vision, including:

1. Higher-order thinking tasks
2. Authentic context
3. Active learning
4. Student-focused learning
- 5.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL (continued)

Watauga

11. Does BISD have any plans to participate in the TEA Teacher Designation Program in the future? Especially with the teacher shortage, I think this could be a great way to encourage and retain teachers in the district.

A. BISD participates in the Teacher Incentive Allotment through recognition of educators certified through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Starting in October of 2021, BISD has supported teachers in achieving this certification through the *Supporting Teacher Excellence* cohort. This cohort was formed in collaboration with the following neighboring districts: Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD, Northwest ISD, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Mansfield ISD, and Carroll ISD. The decision to follow the pathway of National Board Certification rather than creating a Local Designation System was also made in collaboration with our neighboring districts so all would remain in alignment. Operating our districts during the COVID-19 pandemic played a large role in this decision at the time – specifically the workload and strain to the system required to develop a Local Designation System. Supporting teachers in obtaining their National Board Certification allows any teacher who is interested to pursue this pathway quickly and does not limit teacher participation to only STAAR-tested grades/subjects. In the future, it is likely the conversations about developing a Local Designation System will continue. Due to the significant impact this decision would have on BISD staff, many stakeholder groups would be involved in the decision-making and planning process.

HIGH SCHOOL

Shannon