Policy Committee on Public Education Information Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 4, 2014

William B, Travis Building, Room **PDC7 GoToMeeting**
1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Members via GoToMeeting: Mary Ann Whiteker, Paul Clore, Mary Beth Matula, Kim F. ??, Mark White, Robert Muller, Scott Lewis

Members Attending: David McKamie (Information Task Force)

Others Attending: Diane Borreson (Hays CISD), Adrian Garcia (PSJA ISD), Debbie Largent (Lewisville ISD), TEA Staff (Terri Hanson, Bryce Templeton, Shelly Ramos, Jessica Snyder) Terry Driscoll

1. **Call to Order:** Mary Ann Whitaker called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

2. **January 16, 2014 PCPEI Meeting Minutes**

   Mary Ann Whitaker introduced the minutes from the January 16, 2014 PCPEI meeting and asked if there was any discussion. Paul Clore made a motion to approve the January 16, 2014 PCPEI meeting minutes as presented. Mark White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes from the January 16, 2014 PCPEI meeting were approved by the committee.

3. **Revisit of theTSDS Dashboard Historical Data action item from the November 5, 2013 PCPEI meeting**

   Terri Hanson introduced this item and reviewed with the committee the discussion items related to the topic of the TSDS Dashboard Historical Data Action Item from the previous ITF and PCPEI meetings.

   - As LEAs move into the second year of using the Dashboards, there are several metrics that reflect historical data. TEA needs approval to display data for students and staff from prior years.
   - The ITF committee was presented with the options to display historical student and staff data in the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards. The historical data could begin appearing in the second year of a LEA's participation in the TSDS Dashboards. As LEAs move into the second year of using the Dashboards, there are several metrics that reflect historical data. TEA needs approval to display the historical data for students and staff from prior years.

   Each of the following categories of historical data were considered by the Information Task Force.

   - Staff – Teacher Attendance
   - Student – Attendance

- Student – Discipline
- Student – Course Transcript
- Student - State Assessments

ITF Discussion from October 22, 2013

- Staff – Teacher Attendance

  ITF asked how many years of historical data would be available for viewing. Terri Hanson stated that the "dashboards" displays the current year and then four years of historical data.

  ITF was concerned about the confidentiality of teacher or staff attendance data related to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). It was stated that this information is only visible to the campus principal and that these persons already had the right to this information.

  ITF asked if the historical data would show the attendance of staff by day. Terri Hanson stated that the current year attendance data is shown by calendar format (by day) and that the historical data only shows the total days present at work and total days absent from work. ITF members were concerned that this attendance data for staff would be misleading because the data reveals that a staff person was off campus, but does not disclose the reason why a staff person was off campus.

- Student – Attendance

  ITF members were concerned about who would be able to see the historical attendance data for a particular student. Terri Hanson stated that the current teacher(s) at a campus would be able to see the current and historical attendance data of student enrolled in their classes. ITF had additional concerns about a teacher seeing prior year attendance and Terri Hanson stated that a student's attendance was part of the metrics that current teachers of students are allowed to view.

- Student – Discipline

  ITF members questioned the legality of teachers seeing historical discipline data for their students. Bryce Templeton stated that currently, a teacher makes a disciplinary referral to the campus administrator and then they may or may not know the disposition of that disciplinary referral. If the student does not return to the teacher's class, the teacher is generally involved in the continued instruction of the student in terms of creating assignments for the student in the disciplinary setting assigned to the student. Bryce further stated that only campus administrators should know the discipline history of a student s they are allowed to know this information when considering a current disciplinary issue. ITF members were concerned that displaying the discipline history of a student might taint the ability of a student to have a fresh start when being instructed by a new teacher. Other ITF members were concerned that a teacher should know if a student was a safety threat because of past disciplinary incidents. TEC Chapter 37 has provisions to prevent certain students from being returned to a teacher's class who are believed to be a safety threat to the teachers and others in the class.

- Student – Course Transcript

  ITF discussed generally the benefits of the Course Transcript data for historical purposes of the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards. It was restated that teachers would only be able to see the course transcript history of students that were currently in their classes and that the campus principal would have success to only the course transcript data for the students enrolled on their campus.

  Brenda Richmond asked for clarification of the historical data in terms of correcting the course transcript data. Scott Johnson stated that the course transcript data is the only historical data that can be corrected in the TSDS studentGPS™. All of the other historical categories of data are sourced from

locations that cannot be changed after they are available for loading into the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards.

- Student - State Assessments

ITF discussed the benefits of the Student State Assessments data for historical purposes of the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards. It was restated that teachers would only be able to see the assessment history of students that were currently in their classes and that the campus principal would have access to only assessment data for the students enrolled on the campus.

ITF Recommendation from October 22, 2013

The ITF Committee made a recommendation to approve displaying the historical data for Staff-Teacher Attendance, Student-Attendance, Student-Course Transcript, and Student-State Assessment in the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards.

Note: The ITF committee did not approve to display historical data of Student-Discipline.

PCPEI Discussion from November 5, 2013

Mary Ann Whiteker stated she did not like the fact historical Teacher Attendance Rate would be viewable after the school year of employment. Terri Hanson responded that this historical data was not obtainable through the HR system at most districts. She also stated that this type of information would be beneficial to identify classrooms where performance is low and determine if this was because of low attendance by the teacher. Mary Ann stated that she had a problem with this type of information being presented in a historical format because of the nature of the data. Terri stated that this information could or could not be loaded to the Dashboards and if the LEA didn't want this data in their system they do not have to load it.

Paul Clore asked if this was aggregated data. Scott Johnson replied, yes, the historical attendance data are counts of days present and days absent by calendar year.

Paul Clore did not support an individual teacher's information being accessible through a public web interface. Terri Hanson replied that access into the Dashboards was subject to the security roles at the district and is not accessible to the public. Mary Ann asked if the Legislature could access this information. Terri stated that in order for this information to be accessed, the individual accessing the data would need the appropriate access as authorized by the school district. This data cannot be accessed by ESCs, TEA, or any other state government staff. Paul Clore asked about Public Information Requests. Terri stated that the district owns this information and that the individual would need to request the information through the school district. The school district would be able to deny access to confidential information. Terri reiterated the fact that access a LEA can opt to not load certain data components into the Dashboard.

David McKamie stated that principals in Region 12 were excited to have this feature after one principal noticed a teacher had been off either Friday or Monday every other week. Terri added that this could be an early warning indicator for principals to see which teachers were not in the classroom.

Mary Ann Whiteker stated that this kind of data could be interpreted incorrectly because the teacher may actually be out of the classroom for training and that a teacher is given their days off by law to be taken at their convenience.

Terry Driscoll stated that the Dashboard data was only for LEAs, not the TEA or ESCs, and that Lubbock ISD uses the staff data to monitor classroom performance.

David McKamie stated that the ITF committee voted against the historical Student-Discipline data because of students needing to have a clean start in a new school year or new campus.

Paul Clore stated that he felt approving this proposal would be moving too quickly.

Robert Muller asked if it were legal for teachers to view student historical discipline data. Melody Parrish answered that after talking to the TEA legal team this was a local decision.

Melody also stated that if this option to allow historical data for the 5 categories was approved, there was not an option to turn it off at a later date, but that could be added as an enhancement to the system in the future.

Terry Driscoll asked if transcripts would have historical data. Scott Johnson stated that this particular category was different in the fact that you can load prior year transcript data for the transcript portion. Terry asked if they would be able to load local assessment data and Scott replied no.

PCPEI Action November 5, 2013

- **Motion: Terry Driscoll made a motion to approve displaying the historical data for Student-Course Transcript and Student-State Assessment in the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards. Paul Clore seconded the motion.**
- **Note: The PCPEI committee did not approve display historical data of Staff Teacher – Attendance, Student – Attendance and Student – Discipline.**

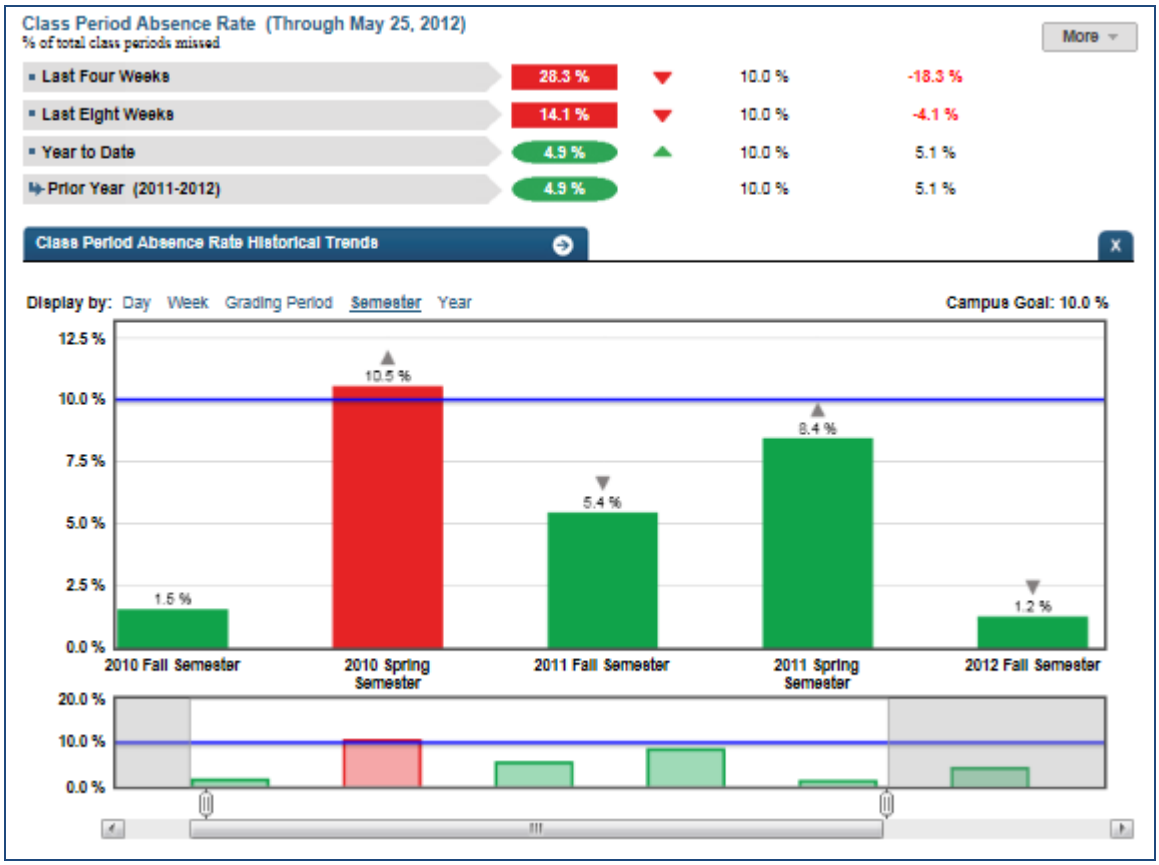
Terri Hanson stated that, as a result of the PCPEI vote to **not approve** the Student –Attendance historical data, that the Limited Production Release districts were voicing the difficulty they would have using the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards without this information since this information is already been available and being used by the schools.

Terri Hanson introduced persons from three of the LPR districts that wished to present to the PCPEI committee concerning the elimination of this information from the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards.

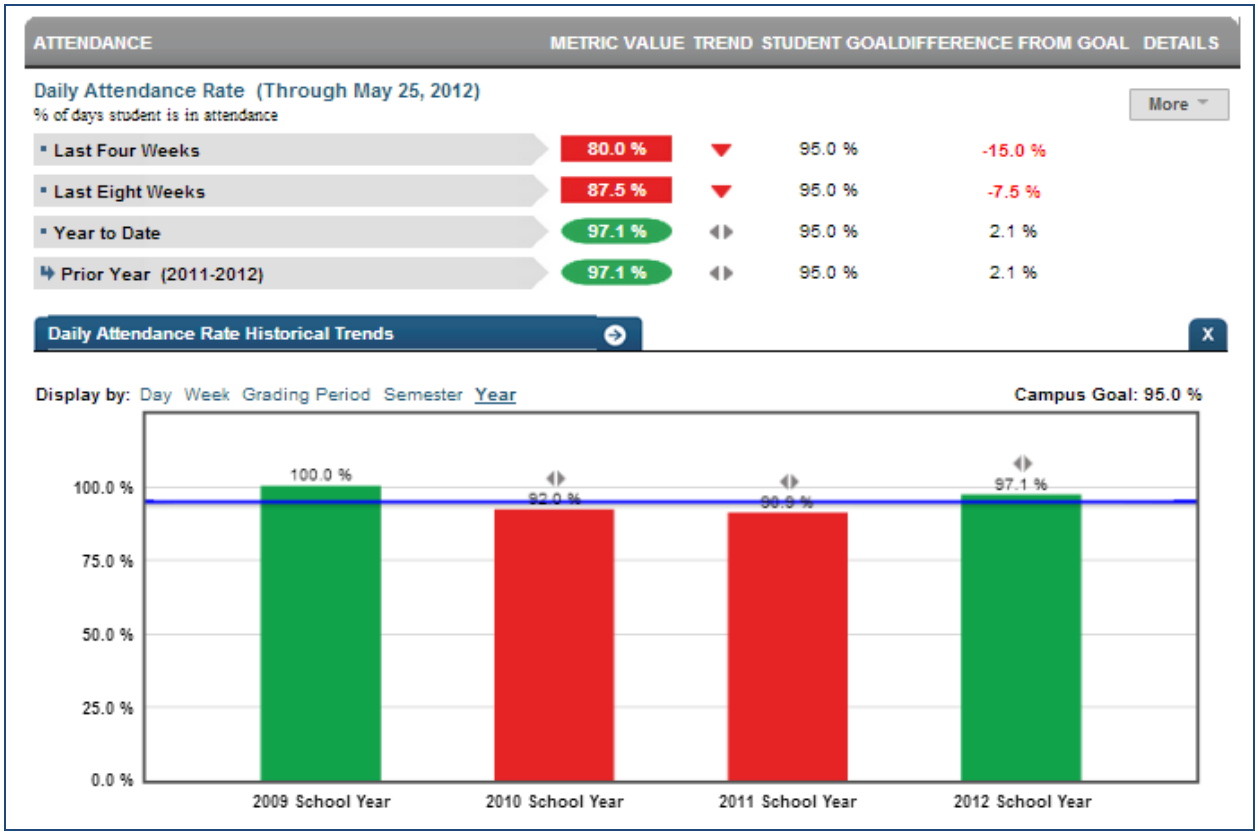
- **Dianne Borreson, Executive Director of Technology - Hays CISD (Also an ITF member)**
- **Adrian Garcia, Chief Technology Officer - Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD (Also an ITF member)**
- **Debbie Largent, Manager Information Services - Lewisville ISD (Also an ITF member)**

To visually remind the PCPEI members of what a district would see on the Dashboards, Terri Hanson presented three screenshots of Student-Attendance from the dashboards and illustrated what the historical data would look like to the districts staff members viewing the data.

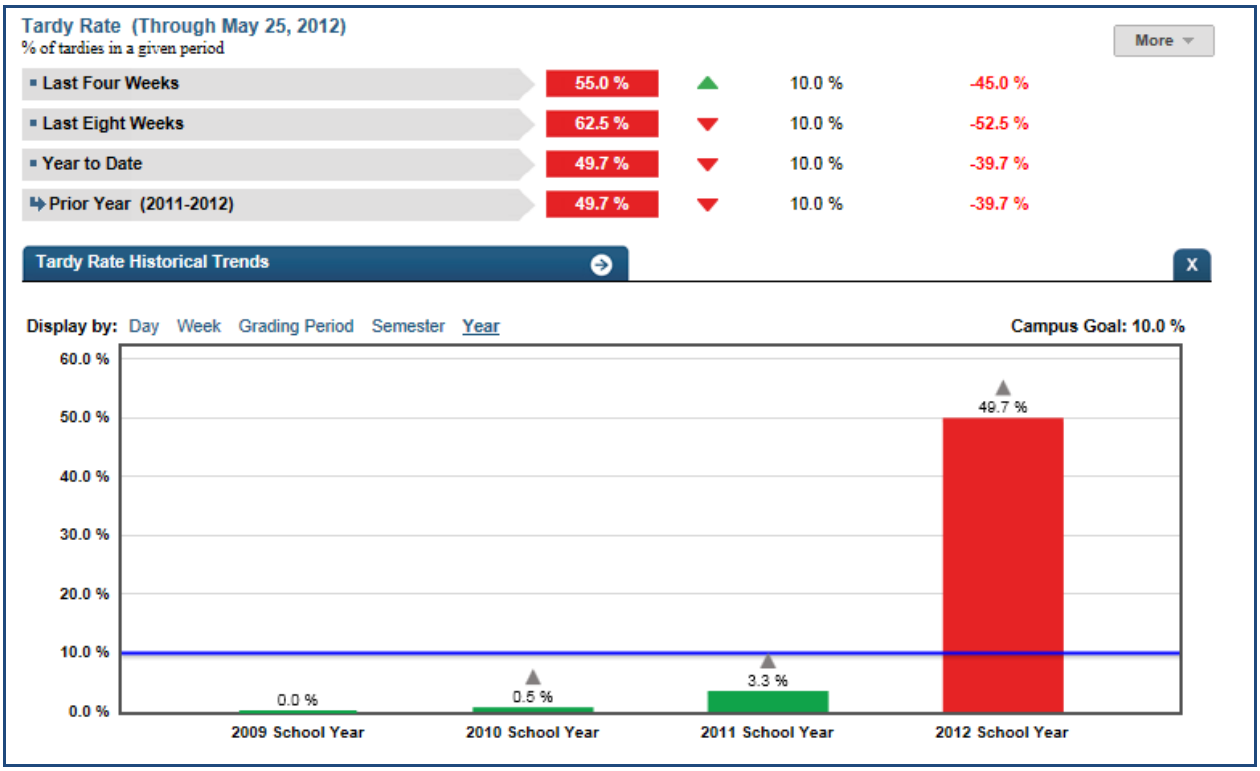
Screenshot #1



Screenshot #2



Screenshot #3



The LPR district members made the following three points to the PCPEI:

- The LPR districts are already using the historical student attendance data as part of the Dashboards metrics to identify students that are in need of academic corrective actions.
- The current and historical attendance data is an integral part of the dashboard metrics and without the student attendance historical data, a teacher or principal cannot effectively use the Dashboards.
- Having the historical attendance data assists teachers and principals in identifying student issues that need to be addressed sooner than later.

PCPEI Discussion

Paul Clore asked for clarification on which district staff can see these dashboards. Terri Hanson stated that the data is behind the TEA secure environment TEAL. Teachers can only see students that are assigned to their classes and principals can only see students that are currently enrolled at their campus.

Paul Clore stated that he did understand from the previous meeting that the historical student attendance data was being used by the LPR districts and that it was vital to the student academics decision making process. Mary Ann Whiteker echoed Paul's statements and stated that she too would support this measure given the clarifications that were being provided.

PCPEI Action

Mary Ann Whiteker called for a motion based on the presentation and discussion.

Julius Cano made a motion to approve the inclusion of the Student – Historical Attendance data in the TSDS studentGPS™ Dashboards in addition to the Student-Course Transcript and

Student-State Assessment historical data that was approved at the November 5, 2013 PCPEI meeting. Paul Clore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Business

Julius Cano, Executive Director, Education Service Center 3, made it know that this would be his last PCPEI meeting as he was retiring at the end of January 2014.

5. Next PCPEI Meetings

The next scheduled PCPEI meetings are:

February 4, 2014 - 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. TEA - PDC7

June 3, 2014 -

6. Adjournment: Mary Ann Whitaker adjourned the PCPEI Meeting at 11:00 a.m.