

## Observation Assessment #1

**Date:** 10/19/2021

**Subject:** FISD Legislative Leadership Committee Meeting #1

### **Assessment:**

This week was the first meeting of the Frisco Independent School District Legislative Leadership Committee, of which I was just recently selected to be a part of. Since this is my first official government committee I wanted to dedicate an assessment to what I experienced and learned from my first meeting as a student member. As I was preparing for the committee meeting I found out that my mentor from last year, Mr. Lee also sat on the committee, so this meeting was a good opportunity to reconnect with him and see if there were any opportunities opening up at the chamber in the near future.

The meeting started out with an introduction of the directors of the committee. The committee is led by two individuals, Danny Stockton and Megan Dewolfe. Mr. Stockton is the executive director of government affairs and legal counsel for FISD. He has a background in government from working as a legislative aide in Austin and working closely with the attorney general of Texas before opening his own legal practice. He joined the FISD staff in 2019. Mrs. Dewolfe is the government affairs coordinator for the district and has most of her background in teaching as well as campaign organization. I had the opportunity to meet both Mr. Stockton and Mrs. Dewolfe last year on the Trustee Board capital trip I attended with my mentor last year. I have been thinking of interviewing the pair for ISM since the trip but was worried about doing it because the parts of government we focus on are widely different but after the meeting, I spoke with them and they said they would be open to an interview soon, so I'm excited to meet with them in coming weeks.

Secondly, the committee went over a general explanation of the government affairs department and the committee's accomplishments and goals for past years and the upcoming legislative session. The committee's mission statement is to learn how current and future legislation will impact FISD as well as connect different stakeholder groups, students, parents, and legislators to each other to improve the educational experiences of students in the district.

Thirdly, we went over the different subcommittees we would be able to serve on as members of the LL Committee which include online learning, special programs, school finance, assessment and accountability, and whole child sub-committees. Each subcommittee is made with the purpose of touching on a past legislative priority of the district like funding, online school programming, covid response, etc. We were able to enter our subcommittee preferences which I listed my top three choices as the Whole Child committee, which focuses on student safety and mental health while also evaluating the lasting effects of Covid-19 on the student body, the Online learning program which discusses how the district will go about creating and implementing an updated and useful online learning program for students who wish to continue at-home schooling, and the special programs committee which focuses on smaller programs like pre-k, bilingual learning, dyslexia and many more. I chose these three because I think

they are the topics that I have the most experience or knowledge about so that these would be the ones that I could contribute to the most. I believe we will receive our committee assignments near our next meeting which will be January 18th.

The final part of the meeting touched on major pieces of legislation that have been either enacted or are about to be put into effect that would affect FUSD on a large scale. This included bills like SB1, SB3, HB1525, HB3979, & HB25. All of these bills deal with different aspects of Texas education but HB3979 and SB3 probably have the largest impact currently. I plan on reviewing the text of those two bills soon for another assessment so I can learn about them more in-depth.

After the meeting concluded I was able to meet with Mr. Lee briefly and we planned on meeting soon after this week to catch up and discuss plans for the remainder of this year. I was really happy with how the meeting went and I'm very excited to attend future meetings. I'm also super excited to try and help/ contribute in any way possible.