The Katy Improvement Council (KIC) was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Bonnie Holland, Associate Superintendent for Administration, Governance and Legal Affairs. Mrs. Holland greeted the KIC members and thanked them for their attendance.

Ms. Holland introduced the Superintendent, Dr. Lance Hindt, who welcomed everyone and reviewed the proposed Local Innovation Plan. Dr. Hindt laid out the three (3) specific areas for which an exemption from state statute is being requested. The desired exemptions reviewed were:

1. **First Day of Instruction** – giving the District the flexibility to establish a school start date that begins before the fourth Monday in August.
2. **Campus Behavior Coordinator** – allowing the District the ability to determine locally how to fulfill the requirements of this position in the most efficient and effective manner.
3. **Teacher Certification** – granting the District the ability to employ nontraditional candidates for hard-to-fill positions in Career and Technical Education.

Dr. Hindt then explained that the Katy Improvement Council needed to vote on whether they approved the Local Innovation Plan. A vote was taken and KIC members unanimously approved the Local Innovation Plan as presented.

Following KIC’s positive decision regarding the proposed Local Innovation Plan, Dr. Hindt indicated that he wanted to give the Council members the opportunity to take another look at the two proposed calendar options based upon an early start date. He reported that teachers in the Teacher Leadership Forum were loud and clear about wanting to have a Wednesday start date. The teachers felt the shortened week would be beneficial to both students and staff.

Dr. Hindt informed KIC members about the financial impact that student absences had had on this year’s Thanksgiving Break. He stated that the District lost over $200,000 in ADA funding. He also reported that employees often take personal days on the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving, resulting in unfilled substitute positions. Many employees are also known to take personal days on what has become known as “The Nutcracker Day.”

Dr. Hindt stated: “When it comes to teaching and learning, I believe it is quality not quantity.” Nonetheless, teachers are required, by statute, to work 187 contract days.

Dr. Hindt then gave the council members five (5) minutes to discuss the two calendar options at their tables and to be prepared to indicate their table’s preferred calendar option as well as any suggestions for consideration.
Calendar “A” was the unanimous choice with only a few suggestions. Feedback is summarized as follows:

1. The Wednesday start date was popular with all table groups.
2. The professional learning days at the beginning of the school year were perceived as positive -- especially with the implementation of the new teacher appraisal system.
3. One table suggested that the early dismissal day on October 20, 2017 might need to be changed to November 3rd.
4. One table expressed a concern that two early release days in October might be too much.
5. There were mixed reviews on the early release day on October 9 (Columbus Day). While some members felt this might be a difficult day for parents to come for required elementary conferences, others thought this day would be a good option since many businesses are closed and working parents would be more available.
6. One table suggested that the District investigate whether the professional learning day on February 16th would conflict with TELPAS testing.

Dr. Hindt thanked the KIC members for their input and indicated the next step would be to take the Local Improvement Plan to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. Campuses, as well as parents and community will be given the opportunity to review the proposed calendars before a recommended calendar is presented to the Board.

The Superintendent wished everyone an enjoyable winter break and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Following the KIC Meeting, Bonnie Holland reconfirmed that the testing window for TELPAS for the 2017-18 school year is March 5 – April 4, 2018.

The next KIC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 4:15pm.