

NORTHSIDE EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 6, 2001
6:00 p.m.
Board Room, 5900 Evers Road

The Northside Educational Improvement Council (NEIC) is the district decision-making committee established in accordance with Texas Education Code Sec. 11.251, and 11.252. NEIC has 39 members, including staff, parents, business, and community members. The purpose of NEIC is to involve professional staff, parents, and community members in establishing and reviewing the district's and campuses' educational plans, goals, performance objectives, and major classroom instructional programs. Staff are elected for a two-year term by their staff peers; parents, business, and community members are appointed by the Board for a two-year term. NEIC meets at 6:00 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of each month, in the Northside Board Room at 5900 Evers Road, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are open to the public. Items to be considered for the agenda may be submitted to either Tere Pena, NEIC President, at Northside Alternative Elementary School, (706-7399) or Pat Blattman, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, at Central Office, 5900 Evers Road, 78238 (706-8635). Minutes of all meetings are posted at Central Office and at each school.

I. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2000

II. Waiver to Limit Enrollment of Foreign Exchange Students at High School

Background Information: Northside currently has a total of 57 foreign exchange students at its 6 comprehensive high schools. While we greatly appreciate the benefit of having students from other countries in our schools, the practice of open enrollment for these students has been in conflict with the classroom space issues we have in the district. Current space issues have required capping enrollment to Northside resident students at some high schools and have also resulted in limiting intra-district transfers from one campus to another by Northside resident students who wish to attend a high school program outside their attendance area. Northside staff would like to apply for a state waiver to allow us to limit the number of foreign exchange students accepted each year.

Action Required: NEIC members will be invited to discuss, and make a recommendation regarding pursuing this state waiver.

III. Academics 2000 Grant Proposal

Background Information: Northside staff has prepared two grant proposals to obtain Academics 2000 funds for 1) math achievement improvement grades K-6, and 2) reading improvement in grades K-6. NEIC serves as one of two oversight committees for this funding, as required by the grant conditions. Dr. Eleanor Elder, Executive Director for Elementary Instruction, will present the two grant proposals for the review and recommendation of the council.

Action Required: NEIC members will be invited to discuss, and make recommendation regarding pursuing these grant funds.

IV. Increasing Minimum Graduation Requirements

Background Information: Currently, the state and district minimum graduation plan requirement is 22 credits. Staff is proposing to increase the district minimum to 24 credits, as well as making the Recommended Plan of 24 credits as the default plan for all students except those who choose to go with the more rigorous Distinguished Achievement Plan. With this, however, is the proposal to allow two options for students (with parent request): 1) to graduate under the state minimum of 22 credits, or 2) to follow the 24 credit requirement, but not follow the Recommended Plan. The rationale for raising the requirement is to better prepare students for passing the new statewide testing requirements (TAAS II) and to meet the anticipated future state college entrance requirements. Proposal to maintain an “opt out” feature is to meet the needs of students for whom the higher requirements may not be appropriate.

Required Action: Members will be asked to make a recommendation regarding possible Board approval of the proposed requirements/options.

V. Overview of EXPLORE/PLAN Testing

Background Information: At the request of an NEIC member, Dr. Pat Henderson, Director of Guidance, will present an overview of these two assessments which are given to all Northside students in 8th (EXPLORE) and 10th (PLAN) grades.

Required Action: Members will be asked to discuss and consider making recommendations.

VI. Middle School Early Release

Background Information: For several years elementary level campuses have had six early release days scheduled during the school year for the purpose of staff development and/or parent conferencing. In 2001-2002, middle schools wish to join in this staff development plan. Richard Krueger, Executive Director for Secondary Instruction, will lead the discussion.

Required Action: Members will be asked to discuss and make a recommendation regarding Board approval of these early release days.

VII. Other Issues

VIII. Adjourn

NEIC MEMBERS:

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:

Primary: Mary Adams, Carson Elem.; Joy Ulcak, Boone. Intermediate: Sara Roe, Raba; Cynthia Mendoza-Collins, Lackland City. Elementary Specialist: Anna Marie Dyas, Steubing. Middle School (Academic Core): Thomas Koog, Connally; Stephen Mazoch, Rayburn; Middle School (Other): Renee Baird, Stevenson. High School (Academic Core): Lynn Britton, Jay; Laura Junek, Clark. High School (Business): Sheryl Parker, Business Careers. High School (Other): Beth Ann Willstrop, Health Careers. Special Campuses: Laura Hinton, N.V.T.P. Counselors: Mary Bailey, Jordan MS. Librarians: Pat Strawn, Jay. Nurses: Norma Hernandez, NHP, Elementary Administration: Tere Pena, Northside Alternative Elementary. Secondary Administration: Patty Martinek, O'Connor H.S. CO Professional Staff: Rosemary Perez, Compensatory Programs; Paraprofessionals: Vacancy

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Jerry Arredondo, Kathleen Celaya, Venisa Dark, Dave Gannon, Mitch Magee, Bambi Singleton

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Lois Pearson

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Ted Colquhoun, Mary Helen Garcia, Garrie Gillaspie, Adelaide McAninch, Dr. Sybil Morgan, Etta Tricksey

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Ben Bendele, Johnny Lovejoy, George McClure, Don Nance

