

NORTHSIDE EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The February 5, 2002 meeting of NEIC was called to order by President Rebecca Barron-Flores at 6:08 p.m.

Members present: Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Rebecca Barron-Flores, Renee Baird, Terry Condon, Yvonne Fernandez, Janice Griffin, Patty Hill, Laura Hinton, Christine Johnson, Thomas Koog Jr., Annette Lopez, Dr. Sybil Morgan, Jodie Meyer, Don Nance, Sheryl Parker, Rosemary Perez, Jose Sanchez, George Terrell, Alex Travieso, Etta Tricksey, Joy Ulcak, Beth Ann Willstrop.

Staff Members present: Pat Blattman, Eleanor Elder, Richard Krueger, JoAnne Reddell

Guests: Mark Gabehart, Greg Carlson

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Annette Lopez to accept the minutes as printed. Mary Adams seconded the motion, The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. District Updates

JoAnne Reddell, Executive Director for Organizational and Staff Development, updated the committee on the 10 year plan for Technology. Numerous documents and interviews were reviewed by the technology committee. The plan will be presented to the Board during the last meeting in February with a final decision made during the March board meeting. NEIC members will receive an executive summary at a later date.

Pat Blattman discussed the calendar approved by the Board. Input was received from about 2200 people concerning the calendar. 82% of the staff preferred calendar D while 54% of parents and students preferred calendar A. All calendar input was discussed at great length by the Board and a revised calendar E was proposed and approved. The revised calendar added a Veteran's Day Holiday and only 3 days vacation at Thanksgiving.

Good news! There WILL NOT be a DEC visit next year.

Budget news. There will be a survey sent to all Gifted and Talented students in high school. Data is being gathered to determine the effectiveness of the Gifted/Talented (BEACON) Program in the high schools.

Superintendent search. Interviews were conducted on February 1 and 2. Six applicants were interviewed. Finalist will be announced March 4 with the final approval announced at the March 26 Board meeting.

Sheryl Parker expressed a concern about the Excelsior Grade Book Program in use at the present time. Staff is addressing the problem.

III. Discussion of LoTi Survey

Mark Gabehart, Executive Director for Instructional Technology, reviewed the results of the LoTi

survey conducted during the Fall semester with all Northside teachers and administrators. The district wanted baseline data as to the level of proficiency of NISD teachers and administrators. The state's long range plan is for all teachers to be at Level 4 proficiency with technology based instruction. A Level 4 classroom would include a multi-disciplinary approach to produce meaningful projects that had analysis of data, reflections on data collected, higher levels of thinking and would require access to computers. The goal is quality vs. quantity of projects in technology. Frustration was noted by several staff members as to the wording of the survey. Etta Tricksey requested that NEIC members be invited to the Technology Conference next year.

IV. Report on Reading Levels of Students in NISD

Dr. Eleanor Elder, Executive Director for Elementary Instruction, summarized the report indicating the reading progress of students in K-2 and placed or retained students in grades 3, 4, and 5. The district is required by law to report this information to the Board and all governing bodies including the Commissioner of Education. Promotion requirements were discussed and changes noted in first grade. Dr. Elder explained assessments and indicated that they included decoding, fluency and comprehension. Math and writing proficiencies were also being added to promotion requirements in all grade levels. NEIC members voted to recommend Board acceptance of the report.

V. Discussion of Revision of Policy EIE (Local)

Recent legislation required staff to make revisions to Policy EIE (Local) regarding promotion requirements. Proposed changes are to include that in grade three, students must pass the reading section of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills to be promoted (EIE Legal), deleted the repetitious phrase that students must meet the goals of the plan in order to advance to the next grade level the following year (PLACEMENT WITHOUT PROMOTION), and added that third grade bilingual and ESL students taking the Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in English or Spanish must pass the reading test to be promoted. Etta Tricksey moved that NEIC recommend to the Board to accept the changes to Policy EIE (Local). Renee Baird seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Other Issues

Pat Blattman presented issues concerning Keyboarding instruction in NISD. The question is do we need to teach Keyboarding as a class and when do we have this class? It has been determined:

- Students already are beginning to develop keyboarding skills
- We have standards that address keyboarding
- No benchmark has been developed in Elementary for keyboarding
- We do have Keyboarding in high school, time is a factor
- Students currently do not have adequate keyboarding skills for business classes
- Not all students may need keyboarding skills
- High school keyboarding lab time is a factor

Currently the 6th grade is teaching a 6-week course in keyboarding. Teachers and administrators have liked results but it has taken time from PE classes at some campuses. The district has purchased Alpha Smarts keyboards to practice keyboarding skills at 6th grade. Suggestions were made to continue to have BCIS classes in high school do keyboarding. It was also suggested that

keyboarding be put in the elementary level or possibly at the 5th or 6th grade level. Baseline data is being collected and recommendations will be made.

The next meeting for NEIC members will be March 5, 2002.

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Yvonne Fernandez and seconded by Terry Condon. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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 on the 1st Tuesday of each month unless otherwise posted. Meetings are open to the public. Items to be considered for the agenda may be submitted to either Rebecca Barron-Flores, President, at Locke Hill Elementary School (561-5055) or Pat Blattman, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, at Central Office, 5900 Evers Road, 78238 (706-8635). Agendas and minutes of all meetings are posted at Central Office and at each school.

NEIC MEMBERS:
STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:
Primary: Mary Adams, Carson Elem.; Joy Ulcak, Boone. Intermediate: Sara Roe, Raba; Annette Lopez, Brauchle. Elementary Specialist: Diane Aguilar, Ed Cody. Middle School (Academic Core): Thomas Koog, Connally; Elaine Rodriguez; Jordan Middle School (Other): Renee Baird, Stevenson. High School (Academic Core): Lynn Britton, Jay; High School (Business): Sheryl Parker, Business Careers. High School (Other): Beth Ann Willstrop, Health Careers. Special Campuses: Laura Hinton, N.V.T.P. Counselors: Christine Johnson, Pat Neff MS. Librarians: Pat Strawn, Jay. Nurses: Jodie Meyer, Oak Hills Terrace, Elementary Administration: Rebecca Barron-Flores, Locke Hill Elem. Secondary Administration: Patty Hill, Warren H.S. CO Professional Staff: Rosemary Perez, Compensatory Programs; Paraprofessionals: Roxanne King, Pat Neff M.S.
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Roger Ayala, Tammy French, Mary Helen Garcia, Janis Griffin
PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Lois Pearson
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Terry Condon, Sharon Itz, Dr. Sybil Morgan, George Terrell, Etta Tricksey, Jose Sanchez, Alex Travieso
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Don Nance, Johanna Rogers, Yvonne Fernandez, Eddie Barron