

**Northside Educational Improvement Council**

The February 4, 2003 meeting of NEIC was called to order by President Rebecca Barron-Flores at 6:09 p.m.

**Members Present:** Diane Aguilar, Veronica Arteaga, Rebecca Barron-Flores, Janet Beach, Lynn Britton, Brian Christoffersen, Isabel Fears, Christine Hernandez, Laura Hinton, Patricia Hitch, Thomas Koog Jr., Kathy Lindley, Nancy Medrano, Jodie Meyer, Sheryl Parker, Lois Pearson, Cindy Plunkett, R. C. Rodriguez, Jose Sanchez, George Terrell, Alex Travieso, Beth Ann Willstrop, Brian Woods

**Staff Members Present:** Linda Mora, Dr. Pat Teicher, Priscilla Shaver, Richard Krueger, Rosemary Perez, Donald Pittman, Larry Martin, Dr. Sara McAndrew, Kathy Mitchell, Marie Ramirez

**I. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2002**

Lois Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. George Terrell seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**II. NEIC Member Appointed to Board of Trustees**

Lynn Britton has been appointed to fill the Board of Trustee vacancy left when Mr. Hatchet resigned. Linda Mora thanked Lynn for all the hard work he has done while serving on NEIC. As Mr. Britton was the Vice President of NEIC, the vacancy needed to be filled. Christine Hernandez moved to nominate Alex Travieso for Vice President and Jose Sanchez seconded the motion. Mr. Travieso accepted. Jodie Meyer nominated Thomas Koog for Vice President with Laura Hinton seconding the motion. Mr. Koog respectfully declined the nomination. Mr. Alex Travieso was elected the position of Vice President.

**III. Smaller Learning Communities presented by the High School Academic Deans**

Don Pittman, Warren High School Academic Dean, presented a power point update on the grant received for investigating options for implementing smaller learning communities at our high schools. Mr. Pittman reported about the research, site visits, and progress made by district and campus teams on determining improvements, keys to success and the goals for this grant. This year the committee will apply for a \$1.5 million Implementation Grant to put in place the best practices as determined by the district and campus teams.

**IV. Calendar 2003-2004**

Linda Mora presented possible modifications to the calendar for 2003-2004. These included:

- August 13, 2003— ½ staff development day, ½ workday
- August 14, 15, 2003—workdays
- August 18, 2003—school starts
- October, 2003—would have no teacher choice days
- November 24, 25, 2003 –would become teacher choice days
- January 6, 2004—students would return to school
- February 16, 2004— ½ staff development day, ½ workday
- April 12, 2004—bad weather make up day

NEIC was informed that this information had been presented to the Northside Communication Network explaining that we must have 177 Days of instruction and that it needed to be balanced between the two semesters. Concerns were voiced about having no breaks from September 2, 2003 through November 21, 2003. Thomas Koog suggested that we write our legislature about letting school districts have local control as to when school should start. Discussion was held about reconsidering the October 13, 2003 date and putting it back into the calendar as a holiday or Teacher choice day. Thomas Koog moved that we accept the revised calendar for 2003-2004 and R. C. Rodriguez seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

**V. Calendar for 2004-2005**

A draft calendar for the 2004-2005 school year was presented for discussion. This calendar was proposed so that it could be presented to the Board of Trustees along with the 2003-2004 calendar. Discussion was held proposing moving Spring Break to the same week as Easter. Lois Pearson moved that we look at moving Spring Break to the week of March 21 and taking the extra day and moving it somewhere else. Patricia Hitch seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**VI. Block Scheduling**

Although the Board has approved the move to an A/B block schedule for the high schools currently on accelerated block schedules, articles were distributed on the pros and cons about block schedules in general for NEIC members' information. Richard Krueger informed NEIC members that 5 high schools—Marshall, Jay, Holmes, Taft and Warren would change to the A/B block schedule. Clark and O'Conner would stay with the 7 period day schedule at this time. Two reasons for going with the A/B block schedule were that it made transfers between schools easier, it was also easier to team students, and students would be in classes all year as opposed to a semester.

**VII. Other Issues**

Richard Krueger presented proposed changes to local policy on the classification of high school students. Discussion was held about state credits and course requirements should be listed specifically or as a more general statement of credits and course requirements.

One specification made was: *All juniors **must be enrolled** in an English, math, science and socials studies class.* Mr. Krueger explained that the principals and counselors preferred the general statement as it allowed for more flexibility with course requirements. A vote was taken and 22 NEIC members present voted Yes, 1 member No.

The next meeting will be on April 1, 2003. On the agenda will be preliminary proposed budget cuts, Bilingual clustering and Regular/Honors courses. All NEIC members will need to read the handout Differentiation Between Secondary Regular and Honors Courses before our next meeting.

**VIII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Koog and seconded by Patricia Hitch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Rebecca Barron-Flores, NEIC President, at Passmore Elementary School, (678-2800) or Linda Mora, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, at Central Office, 5900 Evers Road, 78238 (706-8635). 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: Brian Christoffersen, Thornton; Veronica Arteaga, Brauchle. Elementary Specialist: Diane Aguilar, Ed Cody. Middle School (Academic Core): Thomas Koog, Connally; Elaine Rodriguez; Jordan Middle School (Other): Cindy Plunkett, Pease M.S. High School (Academic Core): Lynn Britton, Jay; Isabel Fears, Sunset H.S. 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: Kathy Lindley, Pat Neff M.S., Nurses: Jodie Meyer, Oak Hills Terrace, Elementary Administration: Rebecca Barron-Flores, Passmore Elem. Secondary Administration: Brian Woods, Clark H.S.. CO Professional Staff: R.C. Rodriguez, Dir., Bilingual/ESL; Paraprofessionals: Roxanne King, Pat Neff M.S.

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Roger Ayala, Tammy French, Dr. Bill Clark, Nancy Medrano, Patricia Hitch

**PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Lois Pearson

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:** Janet Beach, Terry Condon, Christine Hernandez, Jose Sanchez, Sharon Itz, George Terrell, Alex Travieso

**BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES:** Eddie Barron, Yvonne Fernandez

**APPROVED**