

Northside Educational Improvement Council

The April 6, 2004 meeting of the NEIC was called to order by President Rebecca Barron-Flores at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Adams, Bette Austin, Rebecca Barron-Flores, Janet Beauch, Gretchen Bernabei, Kristi Bolstad, Sharon Chadwell, Sharon Christensen, Patty Conlin, Dave Gannon, Randy Harmon, Linda Koehler, Janis Lappeus, Kathy Lindley, Elizabeth Maldonado, Kelly Mantle, Lourdes Medina, Priscilla Paul, Sue Richards, R.C. Rodriquez, Jose Sanchez, Sharon Thornton, and Brian Woods.

Staff Members Present: Linda Mora, Dr. Eleanor Elder, Dr. Elena Luderus, Kelly Smith, and Oscar Cardenas

Special Guest: M'Lissa Chumbley, Board of Trustees

I. Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2004

Sue Richards moved that the minutes be approved as written. Kristi Bolstad seconded the motion. Motion approved.

II. Job Sharing Implications for the District-Pros and Cons

Dr. Luderus presented the district's views on job sharing. There are mainly three instances in which job sharing is approved. The first instance is in non-teaching, hard-to-fill positions such as speech therapists. Secondly, certain positions are "grand fathered in" meaning they have always allowed for job sharing, such as school psychologists. The district does not want to deny the right they already have in place. The third instance is a person with two sites situation where the two sites are too far to travel between in the allotted time. Job sharing is a good thing for those seeking retirement options, but a bad thing because often employees sharing jobs will neglect associated duties such as faculty meetings or staff development because it "isn't my day to work." The bottom line is that job sharing is not fiscally reasonable at this time. It would cost the district \$4000 more to get two people to do one job when salaries and benefits are factored in. Right now the superintendent is not considering opening up job sharing options.

III. Compensation Package

On March 9th the following step schedule was proposed for salaries for 2004-2005:

Teachers, librarians, nurses, counselors would receive a 3% raise for 0-10 years service

4% raise for 11-20 years service

5% raise for 21-33* years service

*The district is capping service at 33 years. Most districts in Bexar County cap service between 20-26 years.

Midpoint contract employees, schedules A-C (administrators) will receive a 3% raise and schedules D-J (auxiliary, paraprofessionals) will receive a 4% raise.

The entire package will cost \$13 million.

The school board will vote on this proposal at their April board meeting.

Update on HRA (Health Reimbursement Act)

Dr. Luderus reviewed legislative action. Teachers/paraprofessionals will have \$500 sent to a special account in Austin for health reimbursement. This amounts to \$41.67 being taken out monthly (including service fee for management). The district will continue to match that with \$500. Administrators will receive \$1000 from the district because they receive no reimbursement from the state. District employees are urged to write to their Texas legislators if they are displeased with this policy. Do not blame Aetna, the management system.

IV. Curriculum Management System Demonstration

Kelly Smith stated that on March 23rd the district approved SchoolNet as the new curriculum management system. It was an outright purchase and is highly customizable. It is a content-neutral “shell”; a data warehouse that uses “spider technologies” to unify large numbers of data. The system is composed of the following options:

1. Account—To analyze preferences and create reports
2. Align—To create and deploy curriculum
3. Assess—To deploy benchmarks with overnight results!
4. Outreach—To create connected communication such as teacher posts, web pages, and discussion forums.

Training on the system will begin in May with campus CITs and local teams.

It was suggested that access to disciplinary records, ISS, and suspensions should be available. Possible use on PDAS was also mentioned. An electronic grade book is in the works for year 2.

V. TAKS-3rd Grade Scores

Dr. Elder presented the results of 3rd Grade TAKS for the state, Northside and other districts in the city. Northside went from 93% passing in 2003 to 94% passing on 2004. The state went from 86% to 91%. It was noted that it looks like the curriculum is aligned with the TEKS and that NISD benchmarks are harder than the real test. The results of Spring '04 administration met the panel recommendation. Although NISD had many commended (90%) students, the state's gain was higher. The discussion centered on the possibility of focusing too much on getting students to pass, and not getting more students into the commended category. The results also show a need for more tutoring in Title I and with Hispanic and African American students.

VI. Other Issues

The calendar for 05-06 has passed and is on the district web page.

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Chadwell and seconded by Bette Austin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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 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 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 (397-8635). Minutes of all meetings are posted at Central Office and at each school.

NEIC MEMBERS:

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:

Primary: Mary Adams, Carson Elem.; Kelly Mantle, Howsman. Intermediate: Rose Barrios, Leon Valley; Sharon Michael-Chadwell, Raba Elementary Specialist: Linda P. Koehler, Howsman/Ward Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Sue Richards, Connally M.S.; Kristi Bolstad, Connally M.S.; (Other): Cindy Plunkett, Pease M.S. High School (Academic Core): Sharon A. Christensen, Jay; Gretchen Bernabei, O'Connor High School. Marie Ramirez, Warren H.S. High School (Business): High School (Other): Lourdes J. Medina, Warren High School. Special Campuses: Elizabeth Maldonado, N.S. Alt. M.S. North Counselors: Priscilla Paul, Brauchle. Librarians: Kathy Lindley, Pat Neff M.S.,. Nurses: Patty Conlin, Stevenson Middle School. Elementary Administration: Rebecca Barron-Flores, Passmore Elem. Secondary Administration: Brian Woods, Clark H.S.. CO Professional Staff: R.C. Rodriguez, Dir., Bilingual/ESL; Paraprofessionals: Sharon Thornton, Northside Habilitation Program.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Randy Harmon, David Gannon, Dr. Bill Clark, Bette Austin, Nancy Medrano, Patricia Hitch

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Kim DeCock

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Terry Condon, Jose Sanchez, George Terrell,, Alex Travieso, Christine Hernandez, Janet Beauch, Phil Lange

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Danny Adams, Bill Singleton

NEIC Officers: Rebecca Barron-Flores, President; Alex Travieso, Vice President; Sharon Christensen, Secretary.