

Northside Educational Improvement Council

On March 1, 2005 the meeting of the NEIC was called to order by President Rebecca Barron-Flores at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Janet Beach, JoAnn Campbell, Patty Conlin, Chris DeArmond, Kim DeCock, Rob Fields, Rebecca Barron-Flores, Christine Hernandez, Cynthia Herrera, Patricia Hitch, Linda Koehler, Nancy Medrano, Don Pittman, George Terrell, Sharon Thornton

Staff Members Present: Dr. John Folks, Linda Mora, Sara McAndrew, Rosemary Perez, R.C. Rodriguez, Kelly Smith

Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. John Folks addressed NEIC on several issues. The first was that HB 2 had passed but expressed concerns that the focus of the bill did not have enough money attached to it and would not meet the court test. He added that the money was not being divided equitably. As an example, he cited that Highland Park ISD in the Dallas area could receive 50% increase in funding whereas Northside ISD would receive only a 4% increase. HB 2 is fraught with problems of inequity and places more mandates and reforms on school districts. Of the 1.5 billion dollar per year 70% would be funneled to pay for mandates and reforms. One of the reforms is the school calendar which would call for the same number of instructional days to be compressed between Labor Day and the first week in June. Another mandate would move the school board election to November which would essentially force school board elections to become partisan elections. Dr. Folks told the group that they are welcome to contact the Governor's Office to lodge their concerns.

In reference to more testing and accountability, Dr. Folks announced to the members that the 15 school appeals submitted to TEA had been granted. To the credit of TEA and the Governor's Office, he stated that they were trying to change the rules under No Child Left Behind. He added that the National Council of State Legislators have said that NCLB is a bill fraught with concerns and are lobbying for changes to NCLB.

In reference to the 2006-07 school calendar, Dr. Folks stated that the NEIC version had been reviewed by the Academics Committee of the Board. The Board will consider the adoption of the school calendar at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2005

The following corrections were made:

1. Linda Mora noted that a request from Dave Gannon for information on SAT and ACT data had been omitted from the minutes.
2. Add Kim DeCock under members present.

Chris DeArmond moved that the minutes be approved as amended with the corrections noted. Rob Fields seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Parent Portal Preview

Kelly Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services unveiled a preliminary version of a parent portal. The parent portal will allow parents to connect to their child's school via technology. The parent portal will allow a parent to view their student's daily grades and attendance. Four schools (Clark, Warren, Stevenson, Rawlinson) will be involved in the pilot expected to be rolled out after Spring Break.

Another issue that was raised included accessibility for parents who may not have internet access. It was suggested that the district investigate ways to connect to the public libraries in the school attendance areas. It was noted that these types of questions and issues was the primary reason for going with a pilot project. The pilot project would allow time for the district to develop procedures and guidelines that would assist teacher and parents make the most effective use of this tool.

AYP Appeal Approved

Linda Mora referred the group to the letter from TEA Commissioner Neeley which outlined the schools that were appealed and the reasons for the successful appeals. In essence, the appeals place all 15 schools to start with a clean slate for the oncoming school years.

2006-07 School Calendar Finalists

Linda Mora presented the finalized versions of the NEIC and alternate calendars. She stated that the alternate calendar was developed with input from the Academics Committee of the Board and would be sent to the campuses for one final review and comment time period.

Other Business

Under other business, Ms. Mora apologized for the omission of Mr. Gannon's request for information on SAT and ACT. The prior NEIC meeting was on January 20 and on January 25, her car was vandalized with a bag containing her personal planner and other office files and materials including notes from the last NEIC meeting were stolen.

Because this was an item requested by Mr. Gannon, it was moved by Patty Conlin and seconded by Chris DeArmond to postpone this item for the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Patricia Hitch and seconded by Linda Koehler. Motion carried by members.

APPROVED

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, (397-0500) 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: JoAnn Campbell, Boone Elem.; Kelly Mantle, Howsman. Intermediate: Linda L. Williams, Howsman; Sharon Michael-Chadwell, Raba . Elementary Specialist: Linda P. Koehler, Ward Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Sue Richards, Luna M.S.; Cynthia Herrera, Sul Ross M.S.; (Other): Chris DeArmond, Pease M.S. High School (Academic Core): Terry Zablocki, Warren H.S.; Gretchen Bernabei, O'Connor High School. Milton Fields, Taft H.S. High School (Business): High School (Other): Lourdes J. Medina, Warren High School. Special Campuses: Ronald Hyde, Northside Excel Academy. Counselors: Priscilla Paul, Brauchle. Librarians: Denise Stanton, Colby Glass Elem. Nurses: Patty Conlin, Stevenson Middle School. Elementary Administration: Rebecca Barron-Flores, Passmore Elem. Secondary Administration: Don Pittman, Warren 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; Christine Hernandez, Vice President; Linda Williams, Secretary.