

Northside Educational Improvement Council

The meeting of May 4, 2005 was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Rebecca Flores.

Members Present: Rebecca Barron-Flores, Janet Beauch, JoAnn Campbell, Patty Conlin, Chris DeArmond, Dave Gannon, Patricia Hitch, Ronald Hyde, Linda Koehler, Kelly Mantle, Lourdes Medina, Priscilla Paul, R.C. Rodriguez, Sharon Thornton, Linda Williams, Terry Zablocki.

Staff Members Present: Dr. Folks, Deborah Healy, Sara McAndrew, Linda Mora, George Torres, Rosemary Perez

Dr. Folks greeted the committee and made the following remarks:

- Discussed his dismay with the Legislature's actions concerning the schools. The funding bill in the Senate at the present time was voted out of committee and is going to the House floor. The present bill will not meet the district's funding needs.
- Stated concerns that the retire/rehire program may meet its demise with the current bills in congress.
- The only bill that is going through the house is the cheerleading bill.
- The Legislature is also addressing the bullying situation and talking about giving parents the right to request a transfer to another school if the child is a victim of bullying. These bills have ramifications for our district.
- On the positive side, TAKS reading and math scores for 3rd and 5th grades are good. 11th grade TAKS is down from 4600 students to only 90 still needing to pass the test. Most of these students need only to pass one test.

Dr. Folks then fielded questions from the members of NEIC:

Question: Terry Zablocki inquired about School Board Elections – is voting not at same poll for Helotes?

Answer: There are few instances where the polling places for school board elections are not the same as the county or the city elections.

Question: One member running for our board has students in private school, is this correct?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What is the overall goal of the legislature? To educate all?

Answer: Their goal is to cut and not raise taxes, get vouchers and more charter schools approved even though they have not been effective. There is not one educational organization that is supporting the House or Senate bill.

SAT/ACT:

Sara McAndrew, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction presented data on SAT and ACT. Dr. Deborah Healy, Director of Guidance and Counseling, has been involved in the discussions of SAT and ACT. The most recent results are from 2003. The PSAT number of NISD students dropped even though this was a focus of this past year. The self-reported minority student numbers were down as well. However, the test scores have shown a slight increase overall. NISD scores for minority students are higher than the state mean. However, NISD is ahead of the state mean in the SAT/ACT and Criterion scores even though the scores dropped somewhat. NISD is trying to increase the number of students taking this test because students who take the PSAT before the SAT generally score higher across the board. The minority test numbers are less than 70%. NISD also needs to increase the number of students who request a fee waiver for the test. NISD has held several forums with the leadership of the high schools to address these issues. NISD offers extensive test preparation programs.

Question: David Gannon - Modified or extended time for testing SAT is allowed but no one in district could tell the family how to deal with this issue. The district provided zero help in this issue.

Answer: The district is providing assistance in the paperwork. However, we need to work on this area. When a child is qualified on PSAT, the qualification should stay with them throughout the testing experience. Qualifying is something that we need to look at and address in the district.

Question: Terry Zablocki- Cost of the tests is an issue. This is a huge barrier.

Answer: Dr. Folks responded: Yes, this is an issue and of course, it drops back to the funding issue and we are going to have to address it.

Question from Terry Zablocki: There should be a counselor at every high school campus during the lunch periods so that students can find assistance with scholarships, test funding, etc. with coverage in the career center. The recent dual credit registration was a nightmare with computers freezing up and data being lost on the ACCD network. Also classroom teachers cannot purchase software that might help the students. Also Parent Connection should carry this information with up-coming dates and timelines. There are dates that conflict with the UIL and TEA.

Answer by Dr. Folks: We need to speak with the ACCD concerning this issue. We need to find out the reason and get it solved. The Parent Connection is new to NISD and the information will improve this next year. I am on the UIL board but the problem is that UIL conducts a three year calendar for events and TEA does not know what the testing dates will be for next year.

Question: We are not receiving the waivers we ask for from Princeton.

Answer: We use 100% of what we get.

Question: How do we determine how or who needs help?

Answer: Outreach should be through the classroom guidance counselor but the Curriculum Management System will help as well.

Question: There has to be a way to better communicate to parents who have students perhaps at all levels. Testing information is confusing and often times the parent is not cognizant of the dates.

Answer: Some information is sent home, but most of the time students are expected to be the communicators. We need to have more direct communication with the parents.

Dr. Folks stated there was a concern with the discrepancy in the number of students taking AP courses but not taking the AP test. Additionally those students who do test are not scoring above the base requirements for passing. We have a problem somewhere that we need to look at and address. Also, as the districts grows in the number of economically disadvantaged students, we have to realize that students do not need the ACT/SAT to gain entrance into the community college so they see no need to take it. Many universities are now accepting either of the tests for admission and some are even talking about doing away with the testing altogether and utilize the 10% rule.

Question: There are some concerns that schools do not accept the AP credit at the community college level so why waste the money.

Answer: Dr. Folks said that in that case, students would take the dual credit class. There has to be more differentiation in how the GPA is calculated so that some of the issues can be addressed.

NCLB/Title I

Ms. Rosemary Perez reported on seven federal funding grant programs in which NISD takes part. The planning amounts for each program have been received. Title I Part A dropped \$221,000 for the 2005-2006 school year. The drop is credited to the charter schools to use; if it is not used the funds will be returned to the general fund and be reallocated to use within the maximum allocation. The Feds have changed the formula for determining funding. There are 20 schools that have met the 75% economically disadvantaged cut for mandatory service. Boundary changes can shift the population and affect funding. Evers and Ward are two schools that dropped out this year.

Title I Part C took a severe cut, nearly \$32,000.

Title II Part A shows a difference of \$122,000.

98% of secondary teachers and 100% of the elementary met the highly qualified status. The staff development needs are met with the services of a specialist who works strictly to raise standards in the classroom.

Title II Part D – Funding for technology is scheduled to be deleted and has been reduced by \$104,000.

Title III – Funding has been consolidated and are targeted to bring the district's ESL program into compliance. Other funds are used to focus on Spanish Literacy program, a consultant for recruiting GT minorities, a coordinator of document translations, and parent involvement both required of all programs. Any extra funds are used to purchase

materials to support students. There are approximately 87 languages being addressed by NISD.

Safe and Drug Free Schools will lose \$17,000 and it is not scheduled for funding after the 05-06 school year. This has been a very viable program and currently there are a program coordinator, 5 drug prevention counselors, and 3 middle school prevention coordinators.

Title V provides the district with flexibility for use, but it too is not scheduled to be funded next year. Input on this data will be solicited until May 23rd.

In response to Ms. Perez' presentation Dr. Folks commented that the district was doing very well on TAKS at the elementary schools. However, middle schools show a drop, and then an increase at the high school level. The academic rigor in the middle school will need to be raised to prepare the kids for what is going to be expected of them in the high schools.

Question: David Gannon – Elimination of schools in the northern part of the nation.
Dr. Folks: Best structure is 7-9 and 10-12. Elementary teaches kids and high schools teach subject matter. The middle school is in a transition. Trend is to do the K-8 for the structure and support with a 9th grade campus and then 10 – 12 for high school.

Other Issues:

Ms. Mora discussed and made a brief Power Point Presentation on the Commissioner's Decisions for the Accountability System.

The Accountability System outlines the criteria on which the districts will be rated. TAKS is the driving force and maintains the standards for 2005 while transitioning to the panel recommendation. The increase in standards was outlined as they will be phased in beginning in 2006. The Accountability System is an improvement model by reaching standards or showing improvement. There are 26 academic performance indicators. SDAA recommendations for next year have not been set. Under reported number of students decreased to 100 students and by 2008 the number is projected to drop to 75. Submission of accurate data district is totally the district's responsibility.

Question: Terry Zablocki requested that agenda items include a reflection/result on what happened; especially the reimbursement issue.

Answer: Ms. Mora: said that as of this date there remains a balance of \$90,000 of the original \$120,000. Ms. Mora said that there would be future communications outlining board or administration response to recommendations made by NEIC.

Question: Funding was not available for things available at the district warehouse only for those things outside the district. It was hard to spend the money and not have problems.

Answer: Ms. Mora said that several principals called to state that the form was being submitted. But there is a need to close out the books for the district. There were a lot of

strings attached. Some of the restrictions on spending the money were established by the district.

Question: Ms. Zablocki asked if there was a possibility to spend this money so we don't send the wrong message to the governor?

Answer: George Torres responded by saying there were strings attached to the money. Dr. Folks added that the district matched the original grant money, but that the reimbursement was not for things the district/campus could provide at a cheaper cost through the district.

Ms. Mora said that a synopsis of the expenditure would be provided at the next meeting. This is an issue across the state.

Question: What funds are available for health services incidental expenditures?

Answer: Mr. Torres said this type of expenditure is at the individual principals' discretion.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn by Joe Campbell , Boone Elementary and seconded by Patricia Hitch at 8:01 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, (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.