

Northside Educational Improvement Council

President Priscilla Paul, Counselor at Brauchle Elementary called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Northside Board Room. She called for approval of the minutes from the December 6, 2005 meeting. Jo Ann Campbell moved to accept the minutes as corrected and seconded by Diane Aguilar.

Members Present: Mary Adams, Bette Austin, Diane Aguilar, M. La Neil Belko, Ann Campbell, Chris DeArmond, Angela Fry, Dave Gannon, Brad Hebert, Patricia Hitch, Lisa Holmes, Laura Lara, Maureen Lopez, Carolyn Mullins, Kim Neal, Priscilla Paul, Leonard Preston, R. C. Rodriguez, Vicki Sills, Linda L. Williams, and Richard G. Hill, Meri Ann Christopher, and Marie A. Ozuna.

Staff Present: Dr. Folks, Linda Mora, Don Schmidt, Sara McAndrew, Rosemary Perez, Lynda Reyes, Linda Zarakas, Deborah Healy, Mary Wynn

Dr. Folks addressed the committee concerning the teachers who had lived outside the district and had their children enrolled in NISD. District policy does not allow anyone who lives outside the district to attend NISD schools. Some exceptions are made for some students who attend schools for the hearing impaired and the magnet schools. Action must be taken on the situation because it was against policy. There are too many employees that perhaps live outside the district and because of our numbers, it is just not possible. Education is in the spotlight right now and we need to understand that, especially with the taxes and funding issues. Austin is quiet right now because March 6, 2006, is primary elections and they are focused on that. Dr. Folks expects a special session around April. Several schools open next year, three are on target and one appears a little behind, but they say it will be ready.

Review of renewal of innovative course waiver by Dr. McAndrew. The courses are Sports Medicine I & II, Problem Solving Using Mathematical Modeling and Computer, Information Technology Applications, Business Leadership, Fundamentals of E-Commerce, and Oracle Database Design and Programming. The motion to accept the waivers was moved by Jo Ann Campbell and seconded by Mary Adams. The motion carried.

The 2007-2008 school calendar was then presented by Dr. Linda Mora. There was much discussion from the floor concerning the calendar. Patricia Hitch recommended that we adopt two, one with the start date in August and one after Labor Day so that we are prepared for the possibility of the change in the law by the Legislature. The committee decided on a hybrid calendar, combining aspects of two calendars with teacher choice in November. If the law changes then, calendar four is recommended with the semester ending January 18th.

The committee then revisited the 2006-2007 calendar. There has been some push back about the date for the end of the fall semester. There is a possibility that a change will be made. The only changes that are suggested are that the semester will end on December 20th and add January 2nd as a holiday and delete the January 16th workday. This would also allow teacher workday on May 31st. After some discussion of the need for the modifications, Dave Gannon moved that we

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ask the board to change to the amended calendar with Lisa Holmes seconding. The motion carried.

Dr. Mc Andrews then updated the committee on the Smaller Learning Communities and academy structures at comprehensive high schools. She reminded the committee that it was based on research to create more successful high schools. This grant came from the Department of Education for \$2.3 million and runs through August 2006. Seven of our high schools are in this program. They are Holmes, Jay, Marshall, Clark, Taft, O'Connor, and Warren. The AVID program designed for first generation college bound students, was then discussed. AVID program students show a three percentage points higher attendance rate. Challenges to this program are the mobility of the teachers, keeping the professionals trained, and funding. The committee asked for a report on how many teachers are still with the program. Marshall is moving to be a dedicated AVID school but is the only one at this time.

Mary Wynn presented Northside's middle school programs for Safe and Drug Free Schools. This program is federally funded but continues to receive cuts in funding. Most of the funding of this program is spent on a staff of five. The focus of the program is on prevention, intervention, and staff development. This year the Safe and Drug Free Schools program will be conducting their bi-annual survey concerning the effects of this program.

Rosemary Perez then reviewed the use of Title I funds for Northside. Title I focuses on economically disadvantaged schools. Planning amount for the 2005-2006 was \$10mill+ and that will probably increase when the monies are actually released. 1% of these funds are allotted for parental development and 5% for professional development. Title I schools are primarily elementary and middle schools. She then discussed special populations that require special funding. Dr. Folks then spoke about how the Title I funds are distributed throughout the district and indicated the possibility of some changes because we are a fast growth district. Title I schools are tied to AYP. Title I is required to serve any campus whose students are 75% or above of social economically disadvantaged.

The district's STEP program was then presented by Dr. Linda Mora. STEP is the elementary program. This program will be offered at 15 cluster campus sites this summer. Funding for this program comes from a variety of sources. The ESL full day program for ESL and bilingual students will be at held at Burke and John Glenn. The dual language program is a ½ day program for dual language students primarily from Esparza and Monroe May Elementary Schools. Middle school step program will be held on each middle school campus. Transition camps are for 5th graders going into 6th grade. ESL programs, unschooled learners of middle school, and high school summer school programs were reviewed. Tuition for high school is \$180 for full credit and \$90 for semester course. A list was provided of the courses to be offered. Enrollment for high school usually runs between 1200 and 1400 students. Community education, fine arts programs and special education enrichment courses were also reviewed.

Dr. Folks reminded us that June 1st is a very important date regarding funding for our district.

Dr. Mora then brought before the committee the pay funding for performance monies from the governor's office. Anson Jones will receive these monies and the Northside Improvement

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Council must approve this distribution and will have to be in Austin by March 20th. This will require this council to come together on March 6th for this purpose at the regular time in the board room.

Being there was no other business, Jo Ann Campbell moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Patricia Hitch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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 Priscilla Paul, NEIC President, at Brauchle Elementary School, (397-1500) 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.; Jo Ann Campbell, Boone Elem.. Intermediate: Linda L. Williams, Howsman; Angela Fry, Knowlton . Elementary Specialist: Diana Aguilar, Ed Cody Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Lisa Holmes, Jordan M.S.; Cynthia Herrera, Sul Ross M.S.; (Other): Chris DeArmond, Pease M.S. High School (Academic Core): Terry Zablocki, Warren High School; Lourdes J. Medina, Warren High School. (Business): Carolyn Mullins, Business Careers High School (Other): Brad Hebert, Health Careers High School. Special Campuses: Vicki Sills, N.S. Children's Center: Counselors: Priscilla Paul, Brauchle/Timberwilde. Librarians: Laura Lara, Ward Elementary,. Nurses: Maureen Lopez, Galm Elementary. Elementary Administration: M. LaNeil Belko, Brauchle Elem. Secondary Administration: Don Pittman, Warren H.S.. District-Level Prof. Staff : R.C. Rodriguez, Dir., Bilingual/ESL; Paraprofessionals: Marie Ybarra, Ed Cody Elementary

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

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Meri Ann Christopher

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Joe O'Brien, Christine Hernandez, Janet Beauch, Leonard Preston

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Bill Singleton, Candice Muster, John Salmons