

Northside Educational Improvement Council

The September 19, 2006, meeting was called to order by President Priscilla Paul, Vice Principal at Brauchle Elementary at 6:13 p.m. in the NISD Board Room. President Paul called for the approval of the minutes from June 8, 2006. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes; a motion was made by Laura Lara and seconded by Mary Adams to approve as presented.

Members present were: Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Bette Austin, LaNeil Belko, Kristi Bolstad, Meri Ann Christopher, Wendi Cowstas, Chris DeArmond, Christi Evan, Matt Foxhall, Angela Fry, Brad Hebert, Lisa Holmes, Laura Lara, Maureen Lopez, Elizabeth Moffett, Linda Mora, Carolyn Mullins, Karen Nance, Kim Neal, Jill Palmer, Priscilla Paul, Dori Peterson, R. C. Rodriguez, Mathilde Scully, Vicki Sills, Linda Williams, Terry Zablocki, Susan Allain, Melynn Young, Cindy Plunkett, Rosemary Perez, and Romy Vela.

Dr. Mora then introduced the new members to NEIC and returning members. Guests were then introduced: Dr. Folks, George Torres, Sara McAndrew, Linda Zarakus, Sallie Lewis, Sharon Sanchez, Monica McKay, Jody Fries

Dr. Folks then thanked the group for choosing to serve the district on the NEIC committee.

Texas Educator Excellence Awards

The state notified NISD that nine campuses in the district are eligible for the Texas Educator Excellence Awards, formerly known as the Governor's Educator Excellence Award. The nine campuses are: Esparza Elementary, Linton Elementary, Lackland City Elementary, Meadow Village Elementary, Passmore Elementary, Powell Elementary, Westwood Terrace Elementary, Pease Middle School, and Sul Ross Middle School. Sharon Sanchez from the Grants/Recognition Department was introduced. The principals and administrative staff from the recognized schools were introduced. Dr. Mora then gave the background on awards and the process for disbursement of the funds. The awards will be based on the 06/07 test scores and the monies must be given to the teachers that are in the classroom at least four hours daily, with 25% to other staff involved in the improvement. Funding of the grant is based on enrollment. The plans for all the campuses were reviewed and discussed. The grant is due to TEA on October 5th. Plans for the grants will be on the individual campus websites and the Grants/Recognition website. The final plans will be presented to the board on the 26th of September. A concern was made by Laura Lara concerning the recognition of the librarians in these grants. Another concern was that teachers who are not really performing up to standards were getting a reward. Questions as to funds being reallocated when the measure is not met arose and Sharon Sanchez spoke to the fact that the funds would be redistributed to those who did meet the criteria. The monies will be distributed around October 2007. Terry Zablocki moved for approval of all plans and Diane Aguilar seconded and the motion carried.

Exception Bilingual Program Waiver

This is the third year that NISD requests this waiver. The Arabic population is mobile and numbers vary with kinder being the only grade level with the numbers exceeding 22. Additionally, we are unable to find a certified teacher who speaks both Arabic and English. Regardless, at the present time there is no such certification available. R.C. Rodriguez informed the group that NISD will be working with Northwest Vista to provide an ESL certification with a specialization in Arabic. At the present time the district is providing ESL services to this population. The only available resource for teaching materials is Lebanon. The district currently has an advisory board to discuss the issues involved with this population and recommend the necessary services. The motion was made to approve the waiver by Chris DeArmond and seconded by Kristi Bolstad. The motion carried.

High School Allotment

High School Allotment was then presented by Sara McAndrew. Dr. Folks and George Torres added information concerning these plans and the funding. This discussion was for update only and required no action by the committee.

TAKS Incentive Plans

Sara McAndrew presented TAKS incentive plans which were developed by a committee comprised of high school staff. Four major ways to address incentives were 1) adding points to the spring semester exam for the subject related to the TAKS test, 2) adding extra points to the spring semester exam for a commended on the TAKS test in the related subjects, 3) pass the TAKS and exempting the student from the spring semester exam, or 4) passing the course and the TAKS test to receive either the exemption or the points. It was suggested that attendance be added to the plan.

Strategic District Improvement Plan

The 4th year of the SDIP was discussed. Dr. Mora reviewed the curriculum and instruction section. She reiterated that the two issues continue to be math and science. Sallie Lewis then reviewed the other portions of the District Strategic Plan with the objectives for the 2006-2007 school year. The plan lists the major activity; the staff responsible with three built in evaluation dates: November 2006, March 2007, and May 2007.

Board Policy EIE (Local) – Academic Achievement: Retention and Promotion.

Dr. McAndrew outlined the changes involving the number of credits for grade classification purposes. Students must pass two of the four core subjects for grades 9, 10, and 11th grades. All 9th- 11th grade students must be enrolled in the TAKS relevant courses and students must make a deliberate effort to retrieve credits through credit retrieval, night school, or summer school in order to be classified at the appropriate grade level.

Election of Officers

The officers were then elected for the 2006-2007. Kristi Bolstad as president, Matt Foxhall as vice-president, and Jill Palmer as secretary. Motion was made by Melynne Young and seconded by Terry Zablocki.

Other Discussions

Last year's presentation on fine arts provided information said that all elementary schools do not have music programs. An example is N.S. Children's Center where the facilitators are having problems getting materials. Dr. Folks reminded staff that campus specific issues need to be brought to the attention of the principals.

Schedule of NEIC meetings for 2006-2007 school year are as follows: November 7, 2006; January 9, 2007; March 6, 2007, and May 1, 2007.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made by Jill Palmer and seconded by Mary Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

NEIC MEMBERS:

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:

Primary: Mary Adams, Carson Elem.; Jill Palmer, Helotes. Intermediate: Wendi Costas, Blattman; Angela Fry, Knowlton. Elementary Specialist: Diana Aguilar, Ed Cody Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Lisa Holmes, Jordan M.S.; Kristi Bolstad, Connally M.S.; (Other):Cindy Plunkett, Pease M.S. High School (Academic Core): Romy Vela, Jay H.S.; Dori Peterson, Stevens H.S.. (Business): Carolyn Mullins, Business Careers High School (Other): Brad Hebert, Health Careers High School. Special Campuses: Vicki Sills, N.S. Children's Center: Counselors: Melynn Young, Connally M.S.. Librarians: Laura Lara, Ward Elementary,. Nurses: Maureen Lopez, Galm Elementary. Elementary Administration: M. LaNeil Belko, Ward Elem. Secondary Administration: Susan M. Allain, Connally M.S., District-Level Prof. Staff : Rosemary Perez, Dir., Compensatory; Paraprofessionals: Robbie Bland, Mead Elementary

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Kim Neal, David Gannon, Dr. Bette Austin, Elizabeth Moffett

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Meri Ann Christopher

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Karen Nance, Christi Evans, Mathlide Scully, David Maze

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Foxhaff, Candice Muster

President – Kristi Bolstad; Vice President – Matt Foxhall; Secretary – Jill Palmer

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 Kristi Bolstad, NEIC President, at Connally Middle School, (397-1000) or Linda Mora, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, at Central Office, 5900 Evers Road, 78238 (397-8635). Agendas of all meetings are posted at Central Office and at each school; minutes of all meetings are posted at each school.