

Northside Educational Improvement Council

General Meeting Called to Order

Both outgoing and new members were asked to attend this meeting.

The October 2, 2007 NEIC meeting was called to order by president, Kristi Bolstad, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Susan Allain, Robbie Bland, Kristi Bolstad, Debbie Byrnes, Sue Casey, Christi Evans, Kathy Ferguson, Nancy Fox, Abby Kested, Laura Lara, Beverly McCarthy, Elizabeth Moffett, Sunday Nelson, Kathryn Nicholson, Miranda Noack-Snider, Teslia Soliz, Rosemary Perez, Dori Peterson, Cindy Plunkett, Vicki Sills, Sherry Willome, Melynn Young

Staff Present: Dr. John Folks, Dr. Linda Mora, Don Schmidt, Lynda Reyes, Sara McAndrew, George Torres

Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2007

Robbie Bland moved to approve the minutes; Susan Allain seconded the motion.

Approval was unanimous.

Dr. Folks shared some opening comments including new high school boundaries and base day enrollment information. NISD grew by 3,665 students over base day of last year. He also discussed the stress of growth in this district. In the 6 years Dr. Folks has been in NISD, the district has grown 19,000 students or 30%. The traffic is also VERY difficult. Brandeis HS, Vale MS, and three elementary schools: Carnahan, Forester, and Scarborough will open for the 2008-09 school year. Dr. Folks also discussed the difficulties we've been having with SchoolNet, and he mentioned that Kelly Smith has been trying to resolve the problems and most of them should be over now. Dr. Folks and staff are still working on all of the new requirements of the newest legislation. For example, we are implementing the bus evacuation drill in October. Also, the physical education assessment now required for all students will cost about \$315,000 and we will require supplementary staff to help. The legislature didn't allot any money for this.

Strategic Plan Update

A short report was provided to update members on the changes to the timeline and for members to provide input on the on-line survey.

Each campus was asked to recommend one teacher and one parent for the strategic plan advisory committee, and there will be board member nominations as well. The Board will consider the list of nominees in October. "NISD Speaks" format will be available online between the 15th and the 20th of October so parents, students, community members and staff can have input on the next cycle of the strategic plan.

Broad Prize Update

Dr. Folks shared that NISD is the 40th largest school district in the nation and were named one of four finalists for the Broad Prize in Urban Education. The other four finalists were all nominated before. This was our first time. The Broad Foundation looks at the growth in student achievement over the past few years. New York City won based on the increase in their special populations' scores.

The video developed by the Broad Foundation was highlighted and the handout from the Broad Prize committee was provided. NISD will receive \$125 thousand for use as scholarships for economically disadvantaged students. Scholarships will be \$10,000 for a 4-year education and \$2,500 for a 2-year. The ETS will actually determine which students who are scheduled to graduate in 2008 qualify for this money. Kristi Bolstad, NEIC president, and Dr. Folks shared a special thanks for Dr. Mora and staff and Kelly Smith and staff and the members of the Broad committee for their endless hours of work on this effort.

Discussion of Exception for Bilingual Education Program for Arabic Speaking Students

Districts are required to identify LEP students and provide services via a bilingual program in their native language. There are approximately 121 Arabic speaking Northside students in PK-5th grade. The kindergarten grade level has 24 students; therefore, the district is obligated to provide a bilingual program. Districts that are unable to provide bilingually certified teachers to implement the program in elementary grades are required to request an exception to the bilingual program and get approval from the Commissioner of Education to offer an alternative program.

This is the fourth year that NISD has requested an exception for these students. An exception has been requested because our students are scattered among 10 campuses and only have 1 or 2 students at each campus. We had talked about having an Arabic program at two sites, however as we look over time, the population has only semi-stabilized. Only kinder grades have more than 20 Arabic-speaking students. The rest of these children are spread across grade levels. The bilingual department sent out a letter to parents of these children to ask if 1, they had a pre-kinder student who would be coming next year and 2, if they would consider bussing their child to another campus to receive bilingual services. 120 surveys were sent and only 40 were received. The district chose to ask for an exemption based on the results of that survey and also because there is no Arabic-certified teacher program available. The state is looking into getting this certification available. Meanwhile these children have been placed in ESL certified teacher's rooms and grouped. Question: How long can we continue this? Probably until we gain more students or the new teacher certification is available. The only stipulation is that we try to reduce the number of students affected each year.

Election of Officers

Action Required: NEIC members were asked to elect new officers. Members were encouraged to nominate and elect officers who are representative of both staff and non-staff membership. The following members were nominated and approved:

Secretary - Sue Casey; Vice President - Diane Aguilar; President - Kristi Bolstad (re-elected)

Recognition of Outgoing Members and Welcome of New Members

Introductions were made around the room. Each member shared their name, what group they represented, and whether they were new or returning.

Schedule of NEIC Meetings

December 4, 2007 April 1, 2008

February 5, 2008 May 6, 2008

Dr. Mora shared that the committee really tried to keep their meetings as informative and brief as possible. She thanked us again for volunteering our time.

Other Issues

None

Adjourn

The motion was made by Christi Evans and seconded by Robbie Blount.

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.

APPROVED

NEIC MEMBERS:**STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:**

Primary: Mary Adams, Carson Elem.; Sherry Willome, Ward. Intermediate: Wendi Costas, Blattman; Sue Casey, Helotes. 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): Beverly McCarthy, Health Careers.; Dori Peterson, Stevens H.S.. (Business): Miranda Noack-Snider, Marshal H.S. High School (Other): Kathy Ferguson, Clark H.S. Special Campuses: Abby Kested, N.S. Vocational: Counselors: Kathryn Nicholson, Comm. Arts. Librarians: Laura Lara, Ward Elementary, Nurses: Nancy Fox, Leon Valley Elementary. Elementary Administration: Sunday Nelson, 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: Debbie Byrnes, Robert J. LeBlanc, Elizabeth Moffett

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Lois Pearson

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Karen Nance, Christi Evans, Mathilde Scully, David Maze, Jeannette Honermann, Isabel Fears

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Foxhall, Candice Muster

President – Kristi Bolstad; Vice President – Diane Aguilar; Secretary – Sue Casey