

**Northside Educational Improvement Council**

**I. 6:03 p.m. General Meeting Called to Order**

The March 4, 2008 NEIC meeting was called to order by president, Kristi Bolstad, at 6:03 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Robbie Bland, Kristi Bolstad, Sue Casey, Nancy Fox, Matt Foxhall, Lisa Holmes, Robert LeBlanc, Laura Lara, Beverly McCarthy, Kathryn Nicholson, Miranda Snider, Rosemary Perez, Dori Peterson, Tesilia Soliz, Denise Perez

**Staff Present:** Dr. Folks, Dr. Linda Mora, Dr. Sara McAndrew, George Torres, Brian Woods, Sharon Sanchez

**II. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2008**

Diane Aguilar moved to approve the minutes, Dori Peterson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**III. Discussion and Possible Approval of the District Awards for Teacher Excellence Grant**

Dr. Mora updated the committee about the grant. The results of the campus voting on DATE were discussed. Members were asked to scan the packet of FAQ's which was divided into the areas of concerns. It was noted that comments in the packet mirrored concerns raised by NEIC in prior discussions. FAQ's are available on the district's intranet. All professional members on campuses potentially effected by the grant had the opportunity to vote. All schools, except Glenn Elementary, voted to participate in the award. As of this report, \$4.2 million is available. The next step is for staff in the Grants and Recognitions to develop the application for the grant. All the large urban districts are applying for the grant; however, as districts opt out, more money will be available for the remaining districts. Support teachers will get more money when the amount goes up. There is a tight timeline for the grant and it goes to the board at the end of the month for final approval. It is due at TEA in Austin on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sharon Sanchez commented that there will be time to evaluate the program and judge its success or failure. The district is committed for two years on this grant. Action required: Kristi Bolstad called for a vote on theory of the grant. Dori Peterson moved for vote of confidence and Rosemay Perez seconded it. A show of hands was called for with 14 for and 3 against. A presentation of the grant will be provided to NEIC on April 8th.

Dr. Folks commented that this whole process has been a tough struggle. Many districts are waiting to follow Northside's lead. Dr. Folks mentioned that we may not necessarily agree with these grants since they're based on a merit system, but that's where the state leadership has decided to put the money. Again, it's hard to turn money away because it will be for the teachers. He understands that there are many support personnel who help achieve outstanding results who also deserve to be included but this grant does not provide for this. Inevitably, each district decides if they want to be involved and we need to move forward to see where this goes. If the grant doesn't work, we'll nix it after the two years.

**IV. Other Issues**

Dr. Mora distributed a copy of slides for the Strategic Plan 2008-2013. The areas of study groups are as follows: Budget and Finance; Communications; Curriculum and Instruction; Facilities; Human Resources; Safe and Secure Schools; School-Business-Community-Family Partnerships; and Technology. 250 people were divided into these 8 subgroups. The study groups' recommendation, after Board approval, will guide this district for the next five years.

Dr. Folks mentioned that this is a great process and it's a working process one unlike others he has seen. Once it's finalized, cabinet members plan annual activities to meet the objectives. Cabinet reviews these activities on a quarterly basis. Dr. Mora, Marissa Pena, School Improvement Specialist, and George Torres, Business and Finance Committee, worked hard to present the plan. Dr. Mora said that this was a learning process, too.

**V. Adjourn at 6:41**

The motion was made by Robbie Bland and seconded by Mary Adams.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 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: Tesilia Soliz  
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Karen Nance, Christi Evans, MathildeScully, David Maze, Jeannette Honermann, Isabel Fears  
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Foxhall, Candice Muster  
President – Kristi Bolstad; Vice President – Diane Aguilar; Secretary – Sue Casey