

Northside Educational Improvement Council

I. 6:00 General Meeting Called to Order

The May 6, 2008 NEIC meeting was called to order by president, Kristi Bolstad, at 6:01 p.m. Kristi reminded all members to sign-in, if they have not done so.

Members Present: Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Susan Allain, Robbie Bland, Kristi Bolstad, Sue Casey, Christi Evans, Isabel Fears, Nancy Fox, Matt Foxhall, Lisa Holmes, Robert LeBlanc, Laura Lara, Beverly McCarthy, Sunday Nelson, Kathryn Nicholson, Miranda Noack-Snider, Dori Peterson

Staff Present: Linda Mora, Lynda Reyes, Linda Zarakas, Orlando Martinez, Stephanie Mota, Marissa Pena, Kelly Smith, George Torres, Priscilla Lurz, Teddi Beam-Conroy

Guest: Paul B. Langer

II. Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2008

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

III. GT/Enrichment Advisory Council

GT/Enrichment Advisory Council President, Paul Langer, presented an overview of the Council's work for the 2007-2008 school year and included recommendations for program improvement. The Council is comprised of teachers, parents, and community members along with Priscilla Lurz, the G/T district coordinator.

This year's Council's discussions raised concerns about staffing of G/T teachers along with three primary areas: public relations, fundraising, and programs. Additionally, discussions focused on the effect of economically disadvantaged schools and the possibility that more G/T students could be identified if these schools had additional G/T staffing. A PowerPoint was presented by Mr. Langer demonstrating that 9 of 21 of the most economically disadvantaged schools have only a part-time G/T specialist. The Council has also raised a concern that Health Careers High School does not have G/T representation which limits the draw to the high school. On the other hand, some have also expressed that all courses at Health Careers are GT. Mr. Langer went on to discuss that the G/T program needs to keep pace with the districts rapid growth. He noted the exploding population of English Language Learners and the need to serve this increasing population. The G/T department has expanded their testing services to include two Saturdays a year and now test in Spanish, Mandarin, and Arabic and additional funding is recommended to continue with the district's growth. Handouts were distributed showing the demographics discussed.

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Mr. Langer reported that the G/T summer camp program was successfully implemented summer 2006. There are Title I schools involved with ½ day sessions with two separate sessions available.

In addition, the Council's committees were reviewed. Fundraising was executed: Laser Quest was held for the second year in a row and a bowling fundraiser is planned for October 2008. The Council is researching the feasibility of a silent auction to go along with this fundraiser. There is also a plan to restructure the Council's web site.

G/T continues to administer the PSAT/NMSQT for every 10th & 11th grader as well as the college test prep. The PSAT Academy will be coordinated with Duke Talent Search to provide more students an opportunity to attend.

Mr. Langer thanked NEIC, Dr. Folks, and Dr. Mora for their continued support.

Dr. Mora commented that it's the time of year when the district is discussing budgets. Recently, there have been two intense meetings regarding budget.

Mr. Torres explained that we have budget priorities and the district is limited on resources as per state mandates. There is limited revenue available for G/T and the district's hands are tied when distributing more money.

IV. No Child Left Behind Planning 2008-09

Plans for the use of the No Child Left Behind funds for 2008-09 were reviewed, discussed and input taken in order to submit the application to TEA. Orlando Martinez, Grants Department, and R.C. Rodriguez, Director of Bilingual and ESL, mentioned that NEIC is the forum for Title directors to get input and make recommendations. A review of information and list of Title I campuses was presented. Any recommendations of changes should be sent to the Grants office by May 15th.

1% of total funding needs to be allocated for parental involvement and 5% for staff development. One recommendation for Title 1 is to fund Even Start programs because there is a desire to continue the service to the community.

Title I part C non-public services are collaborative with Region 20 to provide services to migrant students. Services are much more effective when it's a collaborative effort.

The Title II Part A is used primarily for teachers, instructional support teachers, the differentiated instruction initiative, K-12 writing project, elementary foundations of reading, NISD and non-public schools staff development and secondary math restructuring. The focus is to align curriculum with new text books, elementary math and reading staff development and for support teachers at non-title campuses.

Title II Part D enhances staff development through the use of technology. Recommendations for 2008-2009 year is for a benchmark support teacher, TCEA Registration for CITs, webinar software for training used as a show and tell to learn staff development.

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Title III Part A focuses on limited English proficient students. It was noted that the district will not receive Title III funding because the district didn't meet targets of 100+ students from prior year. These funds are supplemental and include a family specialist position, instructional support teachers, tutors for elementary, middle, and high school students, parent/translation coordinator, training & staff development, and summer school.

Title IV Part A involves safe & drug free schools programs. TEA anticipates this fund will be eliminated within two years.

Title V programs are used for innovative programs and also has been zeroed out for this year.

V. Presentation of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan

The 250 member plus Strategic Plan Advisory Committee has completed their work. The priorities and objectives for Strategic Plan 2008-2013 will be presented. Dr. Mora stated they were a little out of sync because the board has already approved the plan. The committee met for a period of six weeks and had many good conversations about the major areas. NISD is currently in year five of the program implemented in 2003. The new plan was developed with a lot of care and discussions. Curriculum and instruction priority did not change much; increasing student achievement is still a priority. The focus this year was on economically disadvantaged math and science students. A motion was called for; Mary Adams motioned to approve the plan; Susan Allain seconded it.

VI. Discussion of the Texas Educator Excellence Grant – Cycle 3

The schools who qualified for the Texas Educator Excellence Grant Cycle 3 grants have developed their plans. A synopsis of those plans was presented by Stephanie Mota. The TEEG Grant is an incentive for teachers of the top quarter of educationally disadvantaged students on seven campuses. 75% of the money must go to classroom teachers, and 25% can be used for anyone who increases student achievement. Campuses vote to approve plans and look at TAKS data to see who qualifies. It is a collaboration of all faculty and staff. A motion was called for; Dori Peterson moved to approve; Sunday Nelson seconded. The plan is due at TEA in Austin on Thursday.

VII. Update on DATE

An update on the DATE grant was presented. Dr. Mora mentioned that 23 schools were initially eligible; however, John Glenn opted out of participating. Negotiations have been made to the DATE application. As anticipated some districts have opted out, making the total amount available to NISD \$4.5 million. A question has been posed regarding the distribution of money. A vote on amendment was needed; Dori Peterson motioned; Robbi Bland seconded; motion passed.

VIII. Other Issues

A comment was made how there's a need for new reading assessment. There was a review of reading assessments used by the district. The DRA II is recommended for new campuses because it is more age appropriate and is the only program that has a

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Spanish equivalent, but it is \$359 for each kit. The district is trying to get it together for reading assessments and trying to find a way to phase in and phase out.

Dr. Mora mentioned that this is the last NEIC meeting of school year.

IX. Adjourn

Mary Adams motioned to adjourn and Sunday Nelson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 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 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