

## *Northside Educational Improvement Council*

**Members Present:** Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Susan Allain, Robbie Bland, Kristi Bolstad, Sue Casey, Isabel Fears, Nancy Fox, Abby Kested, Robert LeBlanc, Laura Lara, Beverly McCarthy, Elizabeth Moffett, Kathryn Nicholson, Rosemary Perez, Dori Peterson

**Staff Present:** Dr. Folks, Linda Mora, Don Schmidt, Sara McAndrew, Lynda Reyes, Linda Zarakas, Marissa Pena, Sharon Sanchez, George Torres

### **I. 6:05 General Meeting Called to Order by Kristi Bolstad, President**

The September 9, 2008 meeting was called to order by Kristi Bolstad. Dr. Folks began the meeting by stating that it's been a good start to the school year with 87,797 students which is 2,900 more than last year and higher than projected. He discussed our focus to continue on mathematics and on economically disadvantaged children. The district has postponed and rescheduled activities and football games due to Hurricane Ike. He mentioned that there may be a need to take some of our buses to assist with evacuations. In addition, if needed, the Paul Taylor and O'Connor's multi-purpose buildings could be used as shelters.

Dr. Folks' Monday message conveyed information about the refugee resettlement students in the district. Many of these students come into our schools basically unschooled. The progress they make is amazing, although it's disheartening to hold these children accountable by requiring them to take the TAKS test and provide a TELPAS writing sample. Another issue is the completion rate at high schools. The ratings are impacted because the student who receives a GED is counted as a dropout and this affects the completion rate.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2008**

Diane Aguilar motioned to approve the minutes from May 6, 2008 and Dori Peterson seconded the motion.

### **III. DATE Update**

Dr. Mora said that the district had Gov. Rick Perry and Texas Education Agency Commissioner Robert Scott visit Lackland Elementary School to present Northside ISD with a check for \$5.4 million for the District Awards for Teaching Excellence, or DATE program. Dr. Mora reminded NEIC members that any tweaking to the grant will have to be approved by NEIC. Dr. Mora also welcomed Annie Holmes, NISD Board Member.

Sharon Sanchez from the Grants/Recognition Department reminded the group that 2007-08 was the year to establish performance criteria and 2008-09 is the implementation year. On October 23 there will be a meeting with DATE principals to check campus staff rosters to ensure staff listed will get incentive pay. The district is developing a job description for someone to oversee the grant and analyze performance data. It was mentioned that NISD is one of 13 districts to receive the DATE grant in the San Antonio area.

The original application of the TEEG Cycle 2 grant (2006-07 school year) needs to be amended to include staff not in original application. TEEG Cycle 3 campuses will meet to review the performance measures for the grant.

Dr Folks spoke about his consternation with the DATE grant and the struggles with the incentive pay concept. However, he believes that the district made the right decision.

#### **IV. Accountability Ratings**

Dr. Mora is pleased that NISD is recognized without any exceptions and that the district demonstrated significant improvement in science. Dr. Folks mentioned that one issue of concern is the completion rate which is used in ratings. NISD is at 79.5% and it needs to be 85% in order to be recognized. It's an issue everywhere in the state because of the way the completion rate is computed. The completion rate was deferred for one year. The example was used that the testing 2009 rates will be computed from the dropout data in 2007-2008 rates. There is a concerted effort to knock on doors to find kids and to get them back in school.

#### **V. 2008-13 Strategic Plan Year 1 Activities**

Dr. Mora spoke about the eight areas covered in the 2008-2013 plan: Curriculum and Instruction; Safe and Secure Schools; Human Resources; Technology; Communications; School-Based-Community-Family-Partnerships; Facilities; and Budget and Finance. The goals from each area will be reviewed once a quarter.

The plan is a living, working document with Curriculum and Instruction being the most important area.

#### **VI. Board – Superintendent Goals 2008-2009**

The Board-Superintendent goals were reviewed. Curriculum and Instruction is the main focus of the goals. Dr. Folks highlighted that Construction Career Academy is to open in 2010 at Warren H.S. The process to identify students who could go is beginning. Another highlighted area is to focus on teaching and learning initiatives in math and science, especially with economically disadvantaged students. NISD science and social studies grade level curriculum is being adapted to meet the needs of special education students because they will be tested on grade level. The Board is emphasizing increased enrollment in Advance Placement and dual credit and increase in the number of students making 3's and above. The completion rate issue is a goal for this school year too.

The district has to focus on employee technology competencies and to explore a way to assess employees. In addition, the district has to reduce the paper volume of records.

All these areas are ambitious plans, but they are areas we need to address.

#### **VII. Highly Qualified Teacher Survey**

Sharon Sanchez mentioned that NISD is required by NCLB to hire highly qualified teachers. There are 12 teachers which were identified as not highly qualified. Continuous improvement plans to make campuses highly qualified were developed in

cooperation with principals. In 2008-2009 the highly qualified report is due November 3 to include data as of September 15. The data will be reviewed for accuracy and publicly reported on the district's website.

### **VIII. Communicating the 4 x 4 Graduation Requirements**

Dr. McAndrew spoke about the different tools to inform community, parents, teachers and students on the need to go into high school. She presented a Power Point which provides communication on what parents and students need to think about planning for graduation. The Power Point includes graduation programs and criteria as per the state-mandated graduation requirements of the 4 x 4 program.

Dr. Folks explained that the 4 x 4 is an issue for students because they will have to choose on elective programs. Students will have to explore the options of summer school, zero hour classes, and online courses.

### **IX. Update on High School Allotment**

Dr. McAndrew spoke on the requirement by law for the high school allotment. The allotment came into being in spring 2007. The best news is that students not advancing by grade levels has decreased in all grade levels. Overall the freshmen not advancing has decreased in every high school of NISD and is at a 5 year low.

Five goals were addressed.

1. To increase completion rate.
2. To increase number of students in advanced courses and to increase enrollment in AP courses.
3. To increase the number of students in recommended or distinguished programs.
- 4/5. To increase the number of students scoring 2200 or above on exit level ELA and Math TAKS

Other goals include that all 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders take PSAT test. It was noted that Northside's ACT data was above state average in all areas except English. There will be more emphasis on credit retrieval, AVID, and online health courses. In addition, there needs to be a continuation to decrease core course failure rates.

The report will be presented to school board.

### **X. NEIC Election on September 10, 2008**

There is one contested position for NEIC. Most members are eligible for a second term. There's a need for members of the business/community sectors and content area specialists. On September 23 outgoing NEIC members will be honored and Dr. Mora congratulated members on recent position changes.

The next NEIC meeting will include new members.

### **XI. Other Issues**

Bevelery McCarthy raised a concern about the dual credit program with Northwest Vista College. Students who are successful in AP and dual credit courses can earn college credit at the same time as earning high school credit. There are concerns about the programs such as the turnover in position of dual credit directors at

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Northwest Vista and the lack of communication. Also mentioned was the use of Accuplacer test to place students into this program because students tend to score low. There is also only \$600 for teacher compensation of these courses. Ms. McCarthy proposed that the district expand these programs and hire a person at the district level to be in charge along with someone at Northwest Vista.

Dr Folks mentioned that dual credit can be more of an advantage to students than AP courses. Acuplacer can be a problem because students can't even use a graphing calculator on the test.

Mary Adams asked if it was a state regulation not to ask parents for money for field trips since gas is costing more. Dr. Folks mentioned that the district is looking for other ways to cover costs. If a field trip is part of curriculum, parents are not asked to fund the field trip.

## **XII. Adjourn**

8:04 p.m. Dori Peterson moved to adjourn and Laura Lara seconded the motion.

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, Scarborough Elementary  
Specialist: Diana Aguilar, Ed Cody Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Lisa Holmes, Jordan M.S.; Kristi Bolstad, Ross M.S.;  
(Other):Cindy Plunkett, Pease M.S. High School (Academic Core): Beverly McCarthy, Health Careers.; Dori Peterson, Stevens H.S..  
(Business): Miranda Noack-Snyder, 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, Reddix Center

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Debbie Byrnes, Robert J. LeBlanc, Elizabeth Moffett

**PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Tesilia Soliz

**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**

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