

Northside Educational Improvement Council

I. General Meeting Called to Order at

6:16 p.m. by President, Kristi Bolstad. All members were asked to attend this meeting. All members present introduced themselves.

Members Present: Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Kristi Bolstad, Sue Casey, Christi Evans, Isabel Fears, Lisa Holmes, Robert LeBlanc, Janis Lappeus, Belinda Lerma, Beverly McCarthy, Sunday Nelson, Kathryn Nicholson, Jill Palmer, Monica Pohovich, Miranda Snider, Ché White

Staff Present: Dr. Folks, Linda Mora, Sara McAndrew, Linda Zarakas, Don Schmidt, George Torres, R.C. Rodriguez

II. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2008

Susan Allain motioned to accept the minutes; Diana Aguilar seconded the motion.

III. Reporting on Advanced Placement Scores

Dr. McAndrew presented a powerpoint on Planning for Excellence in Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered by the district. The Board/Superintendent Goals for 2008-2009 include: increase students enrolled in AP courses; increase students completing AP courses and increase the number of 3+ on AP tests. The number of students in these courses has increased by over 3,000 in the last three years. These courses are 30-40 different courses offered in the district. Each teacher must meet the AP audit requirements which means that teachers must submit a syllabus for approval. Although, the College Board dictates the topic to be taught, it is up to the teachers to go into depth of the course material. The district ensures professional development opportunities for teachers to encourage them to become AP readers because it brings depth and enrichment to the tests and the course. Parental involvement is the key to excellence in AP courses.

Dr. Folks mentioned that it generally takes 15 students to make a class but there have been situations when there are less in an AP class. Also, there are other ways students can get college credit, such as dual credit. There have been discussions that the rigor of dual credit vs. AP is not the same and that dual credit is primarily an in-state option while AP is generally accepted across the country. The district continues to struggle with dual credit and is working closely with Northwest Vista to improve the program. Northwest Vista has hired a dual credit coordinator to head the dual credit program. He also said the Accuplacer can be a problem when high school students transfer to a community college. There is a push to get PSAT scores and pre-calculus scores to count toward admission requirements.

IV. Discussion of (7) Waivers to be submitted to TEA

- A. Foreign Exchange Student Waiver – 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12**
- B. Pregnancy Related Services On-Campus Waiver – 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12**
- C. Early Release Waiver – 2009-10, 2010-2011, 2011-2012**
- D. Recording Attendance Waiver – Northside Excel Academy – 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12**
- E. Staff Development Waiver – 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12**
- F. Modified Schedule/TAKS Testing Days Waiver – 2009-10**
- G. Early Release Waiver for Stevens HS on January 30, 2009**
- H. Early Release Waiver for Holmes/Business Careers HS on April 3, 2009**

Dr. Mora discussed each of the waivers.

The foreign exchange waiver is for three years. Students must be living within the high school attendance zone. The waiver is to cap foreign exchange students to six per high school. O'Connor, Clark, and Marshall are capped. Students may move from a capped school to another, but they must provide for their own transportation.

NISD provides compensatory education at Northside Learning Center for students who have had a baby to help prevent dropouts. The waiver sought is for three years and allows for students to attend one central location. 322 students have been serviced in last three years.

The early release waiver allows the district six early release days to provide time for staff development and parent conferences. There has been much discussion on value of early release days. Complaints have surfaced that teachers aren't using time effectively for the students. There needs to be good instruction happening at all campuses during these days.

The recording attendance waiver for the Excel Academy for three years will allow the district to count full day attendance if students attend 4 hours (students who are considered at risk). The program allows for students to get the necessary skills needed for their education.

A waiver is needed to build staff development into the school calendar. Normally school is required for 180 days. This waiver will allow the district to use 3 days for staff development.

A modified schedule waiver is needed to modify the instructional day during TAKS days. This is an annual request by the district.

Stevens High School will host the State Academic Decathlon for the region. An early release day is needed to prepare for academic tests on January 30, 2009.

Holmes/Business Careers High School will host UIL competition on April 3, 2009. An early release day is needed to prepare for this event.

President, Kristi Bolstad asked for a vote on all the waivers collectively. All NEIC board members voted in favor of the waivers.

V. 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.

Kristy Bolstad reported that her term on NEIC is over but Diane Aguililar and Sue Casey will continue.

Sue Casey nominated Jill Palmer as President. The nomination was seconded by Dori Peterson. Jill accepted the nomination and was approved by NEIC members. Kathyrn Nicholson nominated Beverly McCarthy, who accepted the nomination as Vice President. Belinda Lerma seconded the nomination. All NEIC members voted in favor.

Jill Palmer nominated Sue Casey to continue as Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Diana Aguilar. The board voted in favor.

VI. Schedule of NEIC Meetings

The proposed meeting schedule was discussed. There was only one change as follows:

November 4, 2008—election day –No meeting
December 2, 2008
January 6, 2009
February 3, 2009
March 3, 2009
April 7, 2009
May 5, 2009

VII. Other Issues

TEA Request for Bilingual Education Exception and ESL Waiver

The request for an exception to the bilingual education program will waive certification requirements for teachers who provide ESL instruction for Spanish and Arabic language speaking students. This is the 5th year for the Arabic Language program exception. Because the State Board for Educator Certification does not have Arabic language certification, the district is only required to submit an official report for documentation purposes.

The NISD Exception and Waiver Forms for Bilingual and ESL Special Education will include an action, recruiting, and training plans.

The completion of the Exception Form as well as the Wavier Form is pending the collection of program data by the Department of Special Education. The Bilingual Arabic data is complete. The district will meet the November 1, 2008 deadline.

Dr. Folks thanked NEIC members for the time given, especially the parent and community representatives. The purpose of the committee is an advisory capacity and that although we may not always agree, we are here to serve Northside.

Dr. Mora recognized Kristi Bolstad for her service for the past two years. She will be missed.

VIII. Adjourn

Kristi requested the meeting to be adjourned and Dori Peterson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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 is 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 Jill Palmer, NEIC President, at Helotes Elementary School, (397-3800) 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 Elementary; Belinda Lerma, Krueger. Intermediate: Jill Palmer, Helotes Elementary; Sue Casey, Scarborough Elementary. Elementary Specialist: Diana Aguilar, Ed Cody Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Lisa Holmes, Jordan M.S.; Anne Best, Jefferson M.S. (Other): Monica Pohovich, Jordan M.S. High School (Academic Core): Beverly McCarthy, Health Careers; Dori Peterson, Stevens H.S. (Business): Miranda Snider, Brandeis H.S. High School (Other) Vacancy. Special Campuses: Abby Kested, N.S. Vocational. Counselor: Kathryn Nicholson, Comm. Arts. Librarian: Janis Lappeus, Stinson M.S., 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, Holmgreen Center

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Debbie Byrnes, Robert J. LeBlanc, Ché White

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Lois Pearson

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Karen Nance, Christi Evans, Dave Gannon, Isabel Fears, Nancy Medrano

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Foxhall

President – Jill Palmer; Vice President – Beverly McCarthy; Secretary – Susan Casey