

Northside Educational Improvement Council

Members Present: Mary Adams, Diane Aguilar, Robbie Bland, Debbie Byrnes, Sue Casey, Christi Evans, Isabel Fears, Nancy Fox, Robert LeBlanc, Belinda Lerma, Beverly McCarthy, Kathryn Nicholson, Jill Palmer, Rosemary Perez, Ché White

Staff Present: Dr. John Folks, Dr. Linda Mora, Dr. Sara McAndrew, Sharon Sanchez

I. 6:00 General Meeting Called to Order

The December 2, 2008 meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Jill Palmer.

Jill thanked everyone for attending and introduced Vice-President Beverly McCarthy and Secretary, Sue Casey.

Dr. Folks then greeted the council. He mentioned that he is gearing up for the legislature to be back in session and he will head to Austin on Thursday and Friday to discuss possible issues with other district superintendents.

There is a concern about the economy and its impact on our district since we don't have control over it, but we will do what we can. In the legislative session, accountability will be discussed and he doesn't anticipate much to be done with testing. He stated that it is difficult to predict what the legislature will do, citing the last session when bus evacuations were enacted as an unfunded mandate.

He went on to state that there will not be a retention stipend this December due to the current state of the economy. Interest revenue has decreased \$6 million, and there are quite a few foreclosures within the district. Dr. Folks commended George Torres and his finance people for doing a fantastic job with budget issues. The district is being cautious because 87% of budget is targeted only for people/salaries. Every position that needs to be filled is scrutinized. Teacher positions are being automatically filled. NISD is in good financial shape and he wants to keep it that way.

The district's growth has slowed somewhat; student growth was at 2,800 on base day. It's projected that we may not grow as much next year. We will continue to open new schools to relieve overcrowding.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2008

Robbie Bland motioned to approve the minutes from October 7, 2008 and Mary Adams seconded the motion.

III. Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) Report

A snapshot view of the 2007-08 AEIS report was provided by Dr. Mora. The AEIS report will be presented to the board on January 27, 2009. This annual report is produced by TEA. NISD achieved Gold Performance Acknowledgments in the following areas: Texas Success Initiative in English Language Arts(ELA); Texas Success Initiative Mathematics; Commended on Reading/English Language Arts(ELA) TAKS; and Commended on Social Studies TAKS.

In the Accountability Indicators, the district continues to do well and grow. NISD

continues to perform above regional and state averages in ELA, math, writing, science and social studies. The accountability measure with ethnic groups continues to improve with significant growth particularly with the economically disadvantaged population. All tests taken demonstrate an upward trend. 98.6% students in grades 3-11 took a TAKS version: 7.1% took other TAKS versions; 1.7% took TAKS Accommodated; 3.6% took TAKS-M; .9 took TAKS-ALT.

The completion rate definition has changed and more students are dropping out, the number growing to 9.2% from 7%. The number of students getting a GED though has dropped from 2.7% to 2.5% with the current graduation rate going from 82.5% to 79.9%. Dr. Mora mentioned that the district needs to continue to work on this issue.

The attendance rate has seen a drop -.6%.

SAT scores dropped -3 but ACT scores stayed the same. The college readiness figure saw a 4% growth. We grew 1.9% in the number of students enrolled in A.P. classes which is higher than in the state and region.

Student demographics are 47.4% economically disadvantaged, 6.7% are LEP, 42% are at-risk. NISD is a majority/minority district.

Teacher demographics needs to reflect the demographics of students. The demographics reviewed include: % of teachers who are male and female; teachers by degree; the number of teachers by experience; the number of teachers by experience; the average and actual salary paid to teachers; NISD's teacher turnover rate and student teacher ratio.

The Adopted Tax Rate was discussed including Maintenance and Operation rate and Interest & sinking fund. NISD gets a majority of its money from the local tax base and is broken down as follows: 54.6% is local, 41.7% is state, and 0.5% is federal money.

Brian Woods reported on the violent and criminal incidents as required. Most of these incidents were designated Code 21, classified as other things that happen i.e. late for bus. The exact data is reported by type of school with middle school having more incidents. Ron Stevens, PEIMS coordinator, stated that per 1,000 students progress was measured in one direction or the other. A large number of incidents is created by a small number of students.

IV. Presentation of Amendments for the DATE Grant

Dr. Mora along with Sharon Sanchez presented DATE Grant amendments. The grant will award teachers in 23 eligible schools, if established criteria are met. Amendments and changes were presented as follows:

- Money received by teachers is subject to TRS withholding and is added to salary.
- Hire an internal evaluator to work with Mrs. Poth in the Testing & Evaluation Department. The position will be totally funded by the grant; if the grant goes, so does the position.
- Contingency plan states that teachers must be employed in the 2008-09 school year through September 4, 2009, because the grant money needs to be paid in early October.

- Any remaining funds from Part I of the grant will be reallocated to a staff development for district use.
- Contract employees are not eligible to receive DATE Grant money. In addition, LSSP's (Licensed School Psychologist) are not eligible since they are considered central office support.

The grant amount is now \$5.4 million. Part I's maximum amount is now \$4,410 and Part II's money maximum is \$477.

Ms. Sanchez detailed the campuses involved in e-vote of the amendments; through a simple majority they were approved. A question of privacy arose about the online voting. Ms. Sanchez reassured the council that votes are anonymous.

The council approved the amendments with a majority vote.

V. Discussion of Innovative Courses

Dr. Sara McAndrew along with Linda Gann discussed innovative courses offered by the district. The district applies for annual renewal of waivers to offer these courses. The courses are College Algebra and Multivariable Calculus for all high schools. Financial Planning, Internetworking Technologies I, Internetworking Technologies II, and Securities Operations for Business Careers High School. These courses expand curriculum offerings and help students better prepare for college or the workforce.

NEIC took a vote to accept the waivers and by a majority the council approved them all.

VI. Other Issues

Call or e-mail Jill Palmer or Dr. Mora if you have any questions. There will not be a January meeting. The next NEIC meeting will be February 3, 2009.

VII. Adjourn

Diane Aguilar motioned to adjourn and Robbie Bland seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 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 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.

APPROVED

NEIC MEMBERS:**STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:**

Primary: Mary Adams, Carson Elem.; Belinda Lerma, Krueger. Intermediate: Jill Palmer, Helotes; Sue Casey, Scarborough. Elementary Specialist: Diana Aguilar, Ed Cody Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Lisa Holmes, Jordan 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): Special Campuses: Abby Kested, N.S. Vocational: Counselors: Kathryn Nicholson, Comm. Arts. Librarians: 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, Lis Krimbill, Ché White

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Lois Pearson

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

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Foxha11

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