

*Northside Educational Improvement Council*

**Members Present:** Danika Angel, Susan Allain, Anne Best, Robbie Bland, Timothy Driggers, Christi Evans, Isabel Fears, Dave Gannon, Herschel Giroux, Bill Hill, Ronald Hyde, Robert LeBlanc, Belinda Lerma, Beverly McCarthy, Erin McDonald, Nancy Medrano, Jill Palmer, Rosemary Perez, Marivel Rodriguez, Donna Smith, Linda Taylor, Danny Varella, Ché White

**Staff Present:** Dr. Folks, Dr. Linda Mora, Dr. Sara McAndrew, Don Schmidt, Linda Seewald, Diana Ely, Dennis Alexander

**Guests:** Jennifer Merritt

I. 6:00 p.m. General Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by President, Jill Palmer.

II. Approval of Minutes from the October 6, 2009 meeting

A motion for approval was made by Susan Allain and seconded by Herschel Giroux.

Dr. Folks addressed the meeting. He expressed his congratulations to Clark and Brandeis for their success in the football playoffs.

A bond issue is being considered. There are approximately 250 people on the bond committee. The survey of taxpayers which was conducted to gauge support for the bond showed most taxpayers are pleased with Northside. There was a 75% satisfaction rate of taxpayers and a higher approval rating by parents of students in the district. Work is progressing on the possible bond issue. In January, the Board will decide whether or not a bond issue will be presented; and, if so, what will be included. The district grew 3200 kids this past year in a down economy. How much will we grow when the economy recovers?

The first round of TAKS testing is coming up in February, and everyone is working hard to assure student success.

III. Council's Responsibilities

Diana Ely updated the committee on the responsibilities of the group. The membership is determined by Board policy and represents all stakeholders. The goal of the group is to make sure that we have quality programs across the district and to give advice to the district in their decision making. Members are also urged to communicate to the community about the district goals and achievements. The role of the committee is to benefit Northside students. The Board always wants to know whether the NEIC has had input before making important decisions.

#### IV. Update on the School Health Advisory Council

Linda Seewald updated the NEIC on the School Health Advisory Council. Since its inception, the SHAC has made significant contributions to the health and wellness of students. The most important recommendation that the SHAC will be making will relate to local graduation requirements for health and PE. The committee produced the Northside Wellness Policy that promotes healthy lifestyles, emphasizing such things as nutrition, physical activity, and health education. It is hoped that the policy will guarantee that health and wellness programs and policies will be continued even when the membership of the SHAC changes. Parent representatives for all segments of the community are needed so everyone is represented. SHAC membership is approved by the Board. Anyone interested in becoming a member can fill out the application for membership.

#### V. CATE Update

Dennis Alexander reported that Career and Technology Education will have all new courses next year with new and/or realigned TEKS. The courses are organized into 16 clusters which is part of a national model.

The state will develop certifications that match the 16 clusters. Current teachers will be grandfathered for certifications. NISD teachers met by cluster to review TEKS and select courses. The flowcharts provided show the progression of courses in a particular area of interest. These are all new courses with changes incorporated in the content. 70 % or more of the content is significantly different from that of previous courses.

Teacher certification requirements are pending from SBEC. For example, BCIS will be replaced by principles of information systems; who will be certified to teach the new course? It seems that the state is interpreting this pretty liberally when it comes to currently certified teachers.

The courses will be implemented next year and will give students more options for post high school career choices.

#### VI. HB 3 - Update on Graduation Requirements

Dr. Sara McAndrew presented the high school graduation programs side by side. She sought feedback from the NEIC before the board votes on the final plans during their next meeting.

The first program to receive consideration was the minimum diploma program. HB 3 allows students to change to the minimum diploma a little earlier. Northside is recommending that health be retained as a requirement for all graduation programs. The NISD requirements must be approved by the Board, and the handout represents the NISD recommendation. The minimum program is only an option when students are juniors and

if the student will not have the credits for graduation. It requires the parent and the school to agree to the change.

The recommended program is the default program. The NISD recommendation closely mirrors the state except NISD staff recommends that we retain the 1/2 credit requirement in health. The new requirements offer the student more flexibility in elective choices. NISD is recommending that the changes apply to students entering 9th grade in 2010-2011 instead of taking effect immediately.

The distinguished program requires 3 years of international language and four advanced measures. Again, NISD is mirroring the state but retains the health requirement.

There are some preliminary amendments to this plan which are to be finalized by the state in January. All three programs will allow students to earn up to 4 credits for athletics. There are several career and technology credits that can be substituted for some requirements.

With the implementation of end of course testing, perhaps NISD should consider allowing a student to change to the minimum graduation plan before his/her senior year. With all the changes, students and parents will need to be re-educated about the requirements.

## VII. Gold Performance Acknowledgements

Dr. Linda Mora explained that these are awarded to schools based on standards beyond the TAKS test. A handout was distributed showing the Gold Performance Acknowledgements awarded by individual school.

## VIII. AEIS Report

Dr. Mora explained that this will be presented to the Board in January.

The annual report consists of four elements, one of which is the AEIS report. NISD is a Recognized district for the second year in a row. The district scores exceed those for the entire state in most areas. The "All Tests Taken" indicator has also improved, up three percentage points.

There is an achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and white students in mathematics while in writing, the difference is negligible. In science, there is also an achievement gap. Considering all tests taken, there is still a large achievement gap despite the fact achievement is inching up.

The completion rate was 81.4 percent for 2008. GED students are counted as dropouts for this indicator, and this number stayed at 2.5 percent. The dropout rate was lowered from 9.2 to 8 percent.

## APPROVED

Test participation dropped slightly. 90.3 % of students took the standard TAKS test with 8 percent taking a modified TAKS test. Dr. Folks shared that this was due to the high absence rate due to flu last spring.

The attendance was 94.8% in 2007-2008. A one percent drop in attendance represents a \$4 million loss in revenue from the state. SAT and ACT scores have dropped slightly from 2007 to 2008, which is a concern that the district is also examining.

### IX. Other Issues

There will be no NEIC meeting in January.

If you have issues or concerns you would like the NEIC to address, email Jill Palmer or Dr. Mora.

### X. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Dave Gannon with Belinda Lerma seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

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 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: Danika Angel, Wanke.; Belinda Lerma, Krueger. Intermediate: Jill Palmer, Helotes; Marivel Rodriguez, Ed Cody. Elementary Specialist: Linda Taylor, Krueger Elementary. Middle School (Academic Core): Timothy Driggers, Jordan M.S.; Anne Best, Jefferson M.S. (Other): Monica Pohovich, Jordan M.S. High School (Academic Core): Beverly McCarthy, Health Careers; Lori Montelongo, Brandeis H.S. (Business): Danny Varella, Business Careers H.S. High School (Other) Jodie Willeford, Warren H.S.: Special Campuses: Ronald Hyde, Excel Academy: Counselors: Bill Hill, Brandeis H.S. Librarians: Janis Lappeus, Stinson M.S., Nurse: Nancy Fox, Kuentz Elementary. Elementary Administration: Erin McDonald, Burke Elem. Secondary Administration: Susan M. Allain, Zachry M.S., District-Level Prof. Staff: Rosemary Perez, Dir., Compensatory; Paraprofessionals: Robbie Bland, Holmgreen Center

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Herschel Giroux, Ché White

**PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Donna Smith

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:** Christi Evans, Dave Gannon, Isabel Fears, Alex Travieso, Nancy Medrano

**BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES:** Matt Foxhall, Robert LeBlanc

**President – Jill Palmer; Vice President – Timothy Driggers; Secretary – Beverly McCarthy**