

***Northside Educational Improvement Council***

**Members Present:** Susan Allain, Timothy Driggers, Christi Evans, Isabel Fears, Nancy Fox, Herschel Giroux, Ronald Hyde, Robert LeBlanc, Belinda Lerma, Beverly McCarthy, Erin McDonald, Jill Palmer, Rosemary Perez, Marivel Rodriguez, Linda Taylor, Alex Travieso, Danny Varella

**Staff Present:** Dr. John Folks, Dr. Linda Mora, Linda Gann, Lisa Moczygemba Armstrong, Jean Farmer, Marissa Pena

The September 13, 2010 meeting was called to order by the President, Jill Palmer, at 6:00 pm.

Dr. Folks made some opening remarks, thanking the members of the committee for their service. Northside's enrollment currently stands at 94,703 students, a growth of approximately 3,000 students over last year. By base day, enrollment will be close to 95,000 students. School opening has been smooth except for the weather related problems. He addressed the 22-1 class size requirement for grades K - 4. Northside's plan, which has been to cap schools, and send students to cluster schools, has become a very expensive transportation issue. Currently, no class exceeds the 22-1 ratio, but as more students enter, we may have to ask for a waiver from TEA on class sizes. He also commented on President Obama's speech to school children nationwide. This year, there have been very few phone calls protesting NISD's airing the speech.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the May 4, 2010 meeting were approved. The motion was made by Alex Travieso and seconded by Belinda Lerma.

**Discussion of Excel Math**

The looming EOC tests have made the continuation of the EXCEL math program problematic. The new math standards have become more distinct, with less overlap between grade levels. Consequently, it is more difficult to justify a student, in essence, skipping two years of middle school mathematics. Also, a student who is in the EXCEL program will take the algebra II EOC which has college readiness standards embedded. This is asking a lot of a 14 or 15 year old. Many students who enter the EXCEL program are dropping out of math early in high school instead of continuing to take higher levels of math. As a consequence, the Board will consider ending the EXCEL program as it currently exists. We will continue to teach algebra I PAP at 8th grade, and then students will take geometry PAP as 9th graders.

**Update on DATE**

Lisa Moczygemba Armstrong reported on the Year 2 Awards and the Year 3 plan. Awards for year 2 actually increased about 40% because unawarded funds were re-distributed. In year 3 additional campuses will participate. Also, an additional measure was added by which a teacher can qualify for an award. A value-added measure will be

piloted at four schools. The value-added component will be reported by campus/subject group. The size of awards will not change for year 3. NEIC voted to support the recommendations of the committee.

**Hanover Research Report on Read 180 Program**

Dr. Mora and Jean Farmer reported on the Hanover Council's evaluation on Read 180. The evaluation concluded that the program has been successful at the middle school level, but less successful at the high school level. This difference is due to a number of factors, outlined in the NISD's response to the evaluation. One of the factors is fidelity of implementation, which is an area that can be addressed by NISD.

**Board/Superintendent Goals 2010-2011**

Dr. Mora outlined the Board/Superintendent Goals for 2010-2011 in the area of Curriculum and Instruction. The handout represented a draft of these goals and included continued focus on student performance especially in the areas of science and math. A final report on Board/Superintendent Goals, including all areas, will be presented to NEIC at a later meeting.

**Executive Summary of Strategic Plan for 2009-2010**

Dr. Mora and Marissa Pena presented the executive summary. Currently in year three of the five year plan, a major goal is to maintain the district's recognized rating. The district met and exceeded the goals for the High School Allotment and opened the Construction Careers Academy.

**Waivers for Submission to TEA**

Waivers for a Modified Schedule for TAKS testing days, a special early release for Warren High School to host the regional academic decathlon, and a special early release for Marshall HS, to host the spring UIL meet are being requested from TEA. The waiver requests were approved by NEIC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Susan Allain and seconded by Herschel Giroux.

## APPROVED

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; Vacancy. (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, Cable 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 Foxha11, Robert LeBlanc