

Northside Educational Improvement Council

Members Present: Mary Adams, Anne Best, Kimberly Burke, Shiloh Dean, Susan Doll, Timothy Driggers, Isabel Fears, Erika Foerster, Dave Gannon, Herschel Giroux, Kerry Hauptert, Bill Hill, Ronald Hyde, Robert LeBlanc, James Lewey, Rob Martinez, Beverly McCarthy, Nancy Medrano, Marcos Moore, Emily Persyn, Monica Pohovich, Marivel Rodriguez, Hollis Rutledge, Valerie Shelley, Donna Smith, Linda Taylor, Ché White, Kevin Wilson

Staff Present: Dr. John Folks, Dr. Linda Mora, Linda Zarakas, Marci Barrientos, Marisa Pena

The October 5, 2010 meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Dr. Linda Mora.

Dr. Folks welcomed the new members of NEIC and opened his remarks by stating that the first six weeks grading period was over and very successful. The district has almost 95,000 students enrolled this year.

Dr. Folks pointed to the sad situation at Brandeis High School. He added that Northside cannot control all aspects of students' lives. Northside quickly identified students who were part of the group involved and talked to parents and kids about the situation. After the second suicide, NISD had police going to students' houses asking parents to check on their child. Dr. Folks is proud of the response and actions taken by NISD schools, administrators, police department, and counselors.

Friday night, there was a Facebook posting about a bomb at O'Connor. The student was quickly identified and plans were made to address the situation. Again, NISD has no control over what students post on Facebook. While NISD tried to do everything possible, the rumor continued to spread resulting in many absences at O'Connor. Dr. Folks read many of the postings and was appalled at the language being used. However, this, too, is outside of NISD control. Dr. Folks had confidence that O'Connor was safe; however, the problem is the lack of accountability for things posted on the web.

Bill Hill, head counselor at Brandeis, reported that media reports of bullying do not seem to be accurate. There are no indications that bullying contributed to the sad situation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 13, 2010, meeting were approved as read. The motion for approval was made by Isabel Fears and seconded by Herschel Giroux.

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

CNA is a federal requirement. The district needs to decide what goals are appropriate for NISD. We have a five year strategic plan and annual district improvement plans.

Schools must make decisions about how they are going to improve. This process is a continuing, on-going activity and a shared experience.

The planning begins with data analysis that identifies strengths and weaknesses, which leads to the prioritized needs of the school. The school staff develops a school improvement plan, and identifies resources to implement the plan. The plan is then monitored and evaluated.

Demographics help us understand the needs of the students with whom we are currently working and how we identify and implement strategies for improvement. In the area of student achievement, we look at TAKS, TELPAS, SAT, AEIS and AYP data, grades, completion rates, and promotion and retention rates. School culture and climate are evaluated by classroom and school walk-through data as well as other sources of information.

Staff quality, recruitment, and retention are reflected in the numbers of highly effective teachers and includes teacher certification data. Curriculum and instruction is aligned with TEKS. Family and community involvement includes the NEIC. School context and organization is also addressed. In the area of technology, the focus is on modeling and applying digital tools as resources for students.

Discussion of Exception for Special Education and Exception for Arabic Bilingual Program to be submitted to TEA.

Marci Barrientos explained that since we have more than 20 Arabic speaking students at a grade level, a request for an exception from TEA is needed due to the lack of teachers who speak Arabic and the fact that there is no Bilingual Certification for the Arabic language. Also, requested is an exception for bilingual special education teachers. There are 24 teachers who are bilingually certified, but not special education certified. The motion was made to approve the application for these exceptions. The motion for approval was made by Dave Gannon. Valerie Shelley seconded.

TTIPS Grant - Westwood Terrace Elementary

One requirement of this grant is that information about it be communicated to the community. Westwood Terrace was awarded \$3,600,000 for a three year grant. It is collaborative effort among NISD, the school, ESC Region 13, a professional services provider, and TEA's NCLB office. The purpose of the grant is to reward school leaders and teachers for increases in student achievement and to increase family and community involvement. It requires the use of rigorous, transparent evaluation systems. Westwood Terrace will implement an incentive program just like the DATE grant, but it will be paid from TTIPS funds.

This grant will allow the school to keep the Learning Tree program. Other areas being addressed are: maintain increased learning time; and recruiting and retaining skilled staff. The professional service provider is David Laird from the Dallas area. There is a requirement for a "district snapshot" which is one of the reasons that as many people as possible need to be aware of this grant. The visiting team will look at the entire district in

terms of clarity, culture, and capacity. Several district documents will be required for this visit. There will also be a visit to Westwood Terrace to interview the principal, teachers, students, parents, and community members.

The continuation of the grant from one year to the next is dependent on the school meeting the goals established for the first year.

Election of Officers

Officers elected by acclamation include:

Timothy Driggers, President; Rob Martinez, Vice President; and Beverly McCarthy, Secretary.

The next scheduled meeting is Nov. 2, which is Election Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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 Timothy Driggers, NEIC President, at Jordan Middle School, (397-6150) 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; Shiloh Dean, Nichols. Intermediate: Kerry Hauptert, Mead; 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; Rob Martinez, Jay High School. (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: Valerie Shelley, Vale M.S., Nurses: Nancy Fox, Kuentz Elementary. Elementary Administration: Erin Carlson, Cable Elem. Secondary Administration: Erika Foerster, Vale M.S., District-Level Prof. Staff: Kimberly Burke, Guidance; Paraprofessionals: Vacancy
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Kevin Wilson, Herschel Giroux, Ché White, Susan Doll, James Lewey
PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Donna Smith
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marcos Moore, Dave Gannon, Isabel Fears, Alex Travieso, Nancy Medrano, Hollis Rutledge
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES: Emily Persyn, Robert LeBlanc
President – Timothy Driggers; Vice-President – Rob Martinez; Secretary – Beverly McCarthy