

Northside Educational Improvement Council

I. 6:15 p.m. General Meeting Called to Order

Dr. Mora called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Dr. Mora asked new and returning members to introduce themselves and tell what school or area they represent.

Members Present: Danika Angel, Robbie Bland, Timothy Driggers, Isabel Fears, Nancy Fox, Herschel Giroux, Bill Hill, Ronald Hyde, Robert LeBlanc, Janis Lappeus, Belinda Lerma, Beverly McCarthy, Nancy Medrano, Lori Montelongo, Jill Palmer, Monica Pohovich, Marivel Rodriguez, Linda Taylor, Danny Varella, Jodie Willeford, Jennifer Merritt

Staff Present: Dr. Linda Mora, George Torres, Lynda Reyes, Don Schmidt, R.C. Rodriguez

II. Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2009

The minutes were overviewed and approved as written. A motion for approval was made by Isabel Fears and seconded by Janis Lappeus.

III. HB3 – Update on Graduation Requirements

Dr. Mora said NISD will keep graduation requirements same for this year because TEA was still considering revisions. The district has not received any new direction from State Board of Education or TEA since the last NEIC meeting.

IV. Discussion of Waivers to be submitted to TEA

Textbook Waiver – 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-2011

Dr. Mora reviewed the waivers discussed during the last meeting. The waiver discussed tonight allows school districts to purchase instructional materials and get the maximum reimbursement available from the state. It is primarily for textbooks that may not be offered by publishers; for example, photo journalism, astronomy, etc.

Exception for Bilingual Program for Arabic Speaking Students and Special Education Limited English Proficient Students

Dr. Mora shared that this is the sixth year that we have asked for this exception. State law requires districts to offer a bilingual program if there are 20 or more students at one grade level who speak the same language. Although NISD has a growing Arabic

speaking student population, there is currently no teacher certification available in the state for Arabic. Arabic speaking students are served through ESL instruction.

Mr. R.C. Rodriguez shared information from the bilingual education department. The good news this year is that we do not have to file a waiver, just an exception. The state has provided some flexibility because certification for Arabic bilingual education is not available. Everyone teaching Arabic-speaking students in Northside is certified in ESL. An exception is being filed with TEA for the Arabic program, and an exception for teachers providing subject content to LEP elementary students. The only group of educators who are not bilingually certified and are delivering services to ESL students are special education teachers. We have 70 teachers who are ESL certified teaching Arabic-speaking students.

TEA has provided some leeway pending the availability of an Arabic bilingual certification. The reporting structure outlines how students are being served, using ESL methodology.

The NEIC committee discussed the waivers and voted unanimously to approve each of them separately.

V. Election of Officers

A new panel of NEIC officers was nominated and elected. The results of the election are:

Secretary – Beverly McCarthy, Health Careers High School

Vice President – Timothy Driggers, Jordan Middle School

President – Jill Palmer, Helotes Elementary School

There was unanimous approval for all three positions.

VI. Schedule of NEIC Meetings

We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month.

VII. Other Issues

Janis Lappeus asked which types of issues NEIC members could bring to the floor to discuss. Dr. Mora shared some of the items that have appeared in past meetings.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The motion for adjournment was made by Robbie Bland and seconded by Isabel Fears.

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.

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.. Nurses: Nancy Fox, Kuentz Elementary. Elementary Administration: Erin McDonald, Burke 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, Herschel Giroux, Ché White, Nancy Gilbertson

PTA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Jody Weitman

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