

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012
10:00 AM**

MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

Members Absent: Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Anthony Sanchez, *Human Services Sr. Management Analyst*; Audrey Abed, *Head Start Administrator*; Jeanne Russell, *Office of the Mayor*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Shreyah Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Vanessa Hurd, *San Antonio Children's Museum Executive Director*; Nancy Hard, *Family Service Association*; Jessica Weaver, *Communities In Schools*; Kathy Fletcher, *Voices for Children*

Call to order

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens To Be Heard

No citizens were present to speak.

2. Approval of minutes of the March 13, 2012 Educational Excellence Committee Meeting

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2012 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ozuna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Briefing on Judson Independent School District

Dr. Willis Mackey, Superintendent, Judson ISD

Jose Elizondo provided an overview of the District Facts for Judson Independent School District:

- Student Enrollment
- 2011-2012 Student Ethnicity
- Staff
- 2011-2012 Budget Total
- Revenue Sources
- Tax Rate

- Fund Balances at June 30, 2011
- Campuses
- 2011-2012 Campus Ratings
- 2011-2012 District Ratings: Academically Acceptable
- Class of 2011 Graduate Profile
- Athletics District Classification 25-5A
- Other District 25-5A Teams
- 2011-2012 Beginning Teacher Salaries
- Vision Statement
- Mission Statement
- Core Values

Chairman Lopez asked for the number of Title I students in the Judson Independent School District. Mr. Elizondo replied that 60% of students are classified as low socioeconomics and that the numbers are determined by free and reduced lunch applications.

Councilmember Ozuna asked for the geographic locations of Academically Acceptable Campuses in the district. Mr. Elizondo stated that two-thirds are located in the southern area of the district; others are more centrally located within the district; and still others are scattered.

Chairman Lopez asked for a Texas School Funding System Analysis. Mr. Elizondo provided an analysis on local and state school funding. Chairman Lopez stated that it is a complicated formula.

Councilmember Taylor commented on the 60% disadvantaged students and spoke of student challenges and the issues impacting them. She affirmed partnering with other jurisdictions to provide facilities for them so that students may achieve their educational goals.

Councilmember Saldaña commented on the Athletic Success at Judson I.S.D. and asked of the fiscal impact for the Athletic Department. Mr. Elizondo replied that they do well in the Athletic Program and that there is a misconception that the athletic department pays for itself. Mr. Elizondo reported that the revenue generated from the program is approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 with \$1.7-\$1.8 million spent annually on the program.

Councilmember Ozuna asked how the comprehensive ranking was determined. Mr. Elizondo reported that State Assessments are used to gauge student performance. He added that district budgets are ranked by size or student enrollment. Councilmember Ozuna asked if Judson I.S.D. had a goal setting process. Mr. Elizondo provided an overview on Judson's Vision Committee to prepare students for college or work pathways.

Councilmember Saldaña referenced Texas being featured in an article called, "Making Due on a Shoe-string Budget", in the New York Times. He asked if any creative measures at Judson I.S.D. were in place due to a limited budget. Mr. Elizondo provided details on the implementation of the transportation 'pay to ride' for students who are not eligible to ride a school bus. He expanded on the proposal to eliminate art teaching positions. He explained that there would be a district specialist who would be a central person to write all art lesson plans and provide them to teachers. Consequently, art time will be held on Fridays in the classroom. He reported that grants are another measure being relied on more at Judson I.S.D. due to the budget.

In addition, he stated that the Judson Learning Academy, which totals to an additional \$50,000 a year, is now being funded by the Simon Youth Foundation.

4. Briefing on San Antonio Children's Museum

Presented by Vanessa Hurd, Executive Director, San Antonio Children's Museum

Ms. Vanessa Hurd, San Antonio Children's Museum (SACM) Executive Director presented information on the San Antonio Children's Museum. She stated that the goal is to move from a "nice to have" to a "must have" educational resource. Ms. Hurd reported that the focus includes Kinder/School Readiness, Out-of-School Time Learning Opportunities, Parent Skills and Confidence, and Educator Professional Development. She added that the new vision as a premier educational resource includes: Literacy, Science and the Arts; the Impact on a growing community; and attendance at SACM; and their Impact with Parents and Educators.

Councilmember Taylor commented on the importance of achieving educational goals and of partnering with SACM.

Councilmember Saldaña expressed his enthusiasm in having parent interaction at the SACM. He asked of the strategy for building a more parent-engaged model. Ms. Hurd reported that they are building the facilitating aspect, highly training staff to support parents, and using the resources. She added that they are building the outreach component of what is done by involving the parent, and using the parent in the setting as the teacher. She restated that the parent is and will be actively engaged in the program.

Councilmember C. Medina conveyed his appreciation to the SACM and Staff. He articulated that as parents, he and his wife enjoyed taking their family to SACM.

Councilmember Ozuna asked for clarification on the audience served by SACM and the focus. Ms. Hurd reported that children ages birth – 10 years old will be served. She stated that the focus is on Physical Sciences and Earth Sciences.

Mr. Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager reported that the City's Bond Program has \$3 million for the capital campaign. Ms. Hurd reported that the total budget for the new facility project is \$45 million. She stated that it is scheduled to break ground in June 2013, and be completed in March 2015. In addition, Ms. Hurd confirmed that SACM has raised 60% of the necessary funds.

Councilmember Taylor stated the importance of being strategic and focusing on education and early childhood education.

Chairman Lopez commented on the approach of the parent development and trainer to trainer mentality.

5. Response to Committee Member request for information regarding Anti-Bullying efforts within the City

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director of Human Services and Nancy Hard, President & CEO, Family Service Association

Ms. Gloria Hurtado, Human Services Director, provided a response to Councilmember Medina's request regarding efforts to address bullying. She reported that across the country, 46 states have passed legislation regarding bullying. Ms. Hurtado added that Legislation requires schools to focus on school awareness and intervention. She reported that local community/school districts are implementing plans relative to bullying.

Ms. Nancy Hard, CEO, Family Service Association provided facts surrounding Bullying Behavior that include the statistics on gender with regard to bullying.

Councilmember C. Medina stated that it was the city's responsibility to ensure that children and students are safe in the classroom. He stated that his number one charge is public safety in our community. In response to Councilmember C. Medina, Ms. Hard replied that she would attempt to obtain a specific number on bully incidents for Bexar County. Councilmember C. Medina reported that he would like to implement a PSA to raise awareness in Schools. He added that he would like to invite Mayor Castro and the City Council to partake in this initiative. Ms. Hurtado stated that she would pursue this initiative.

Ms. Hard provided an overview on 'How you can help' Literature, and provided an online reference - www.stopbullying.gov that modules helpful information.

In response to Councilmember C. Medina's question, Ms. Hurtado reported that House Bill 1942 passed and requires supporting the school districts as they implement their measures.

Councilmember Taylor stated that she was asked to assist supporting Black History Month at a local school. She spoke of a scenario that involved a child that was experiencing severe bullying and the rippling effects. She encouraged community leaders to participate and assist in different programs that celebrate diversities.

Chairman Lopez stated that it is important to implement concrete consequences for bullying. He suggested speaking with our Legislators to ensure that there are consequences to bullying and to provide funding to institutions that are responsible for managing and correcting the behavior.

Mr. Zanoni added that the Anti-Bullying Program is funded in the human development services and delegate agency process.

6. Update on Hiring Education Policy & Services Administrator for the City of San Antonio

Presented by Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Zanoni provided an update on Ms. Rebecca Flores, the new Education Policy & Services Administrator.

Chairman Lopez asked of the total number of applicants for the Education Policy & Services Administrator Position. Ms. Hurtado replied that there were over 200 applications. She reported that she screened over 100 applications and a recruiter screened the remainder. She stated that two rounds of interviews were conducted.

In response to Chairman Lopez, Mr. Zanoni replied that Ms. Rebecca Flores will begin her new position on Monday, April 30th.

7. Briefing and possible action on items related to Head Start Program

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado presented an update on the Head Start Program. She informed the Committee of a lawsuit filed by multiple states and requested approval on policy revisions, and a supplemental grant application.

Councilmember Saldaña asked about additional operating costs.

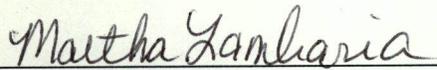
In response to Chairman Lopez, Ms. Hurtado replied that we are in a neutral position on the lawsuit. Chairman Lopez affirmed that the lawsuit is against the Health and Human Services Department - HHS. Ms. Hurtado added that the lawsuit was filed by various associations representing 10 states.

Councilmember Saldaña moved forward said item to the full City Council. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

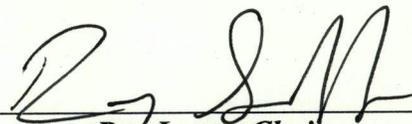
8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha Lambaria
Office of the City Clerk


For *Ray Lopez, Chair*