

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011  
10:00 AM**

**MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Ray Lopez, Chair, *District 6*  
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*  
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

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**Members Absent** Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*  
Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

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**Staff Present:** Peter Zanoni, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Human Services Director*; Melody Woosley, *Human Services Assistant Director*; Edward Gonzalez, *Human Services Assistant Director*; Audrey Abed, *Head Start Administrator*; Jeanne Russell, *Office of the Mayor*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Shreyah Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Edward Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Dr. Brian Gottardy, *NEISD*

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**1. Citizens To Be Heard**

No citizens were present to speak.

**2. Approval of the October 11, 2011 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the Minutes of the October 11, 2011 Educational Excellence Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Briefing of North East Independent School District (NEISD)**

Presented by Dr. Brian Gottardy, NEISD Superintendent

Dr. Brian Gottardy provided information on the North East Independent School District (NEISD), citing administrative transitions and Bond Election preparation. He stated that he was appointed as NEISD Superintendent in May, following the retirement of Superintendent Middleton. He provided an overview of the Bond Referendum process and stated that they were awaiting the results of the Bond Election later this evening. He reported that the NEISD had 67,000 students; 70 campuses; and 10,000 employees. He stated that they had received a \$70 million reduction in revenue by the State Legislature. He noted that NEISD had implemented budget reductions to address the loss in revenue and that there were no cuts to teaching staff. He reported that the primary challenges for the School District were accountability for student testing and reduction of funding.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the population of students with regard to teachers. Mr. Gottardy replied that teachers were still being hired depending on the field of subject. He noted that the State mandates a 22-1 student-teacher ratio for grades K-4. He added that NEISD has applied for 65 classroom waivers where classrooms exceed said ratio and are under review on a case by case basis. He added that some classes could be successful with a larger ratio.

Councilmember C. Medina asked of school population and future projections. Mr. Gottardy responded that there were 67,000 students with growth of 1,000 students. He stated that if the proposed Bond was successful; there would be no need for additional middle or high schools; however, there may be a need for additional elementary schools. He added that the District should be close to capacity in the next 10-15 years.

Chairperson Lopez asked of Pre-K Programs. Mr. Gottardy responded that the District currently has a half-day Pre-K Program. He stated that in the past few years, many students up to second grade have entered school without sufficient preparation. He noted that testing was being reviewed to address the issue and that a Task Force comprised of 150 Educators and Parents had been established to address the issue.

#### **4. Briefing on SA2020 Educational Initiatives and Measurement Mechanisms**

Presented by Jeanne Russell, Assistant to Mayor-Education

Jeanne Russell provided an overview of the SA2020 Education key indicators/measures that include Kindergarten and College Readiness. She highlighted the following supporting indicators:

- ✦ 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading
- ✦ High School Graduation Rates
- ✦ College Enrollment
- ✦ Adult Education Attainment

Ms. Russell stated that SA2020 invites individuals to become part of the effort to accomplish the vision and provided potential action steps outlined in the visioning process to include: a) Adopt a school; b) Mentor and read to a child; and c) Have your business offer internships. She noted that achieving said goals would require the support and active participation of a broad range of groups.

#### **5. Briefing and possible action on Ambassador Program Redevelopment and Policy Input**

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Gloria Hurtado reported that the Ambassador Program exposes students to professional and career opportunities available in San Antonio through: 1) Paid work internships and 2) Training in high demand occupations. She stated that the Program attracts college students to remain or return to San Antonio to work after graduation. She noted that there was an increase in funding and requested the Committee's endorsement to expand program capacity for a Spring Session in addition to the Summer Session.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke in support of promoting the program to students from San Antonio attending schools outside of the city rather than adding a Spring Session. Discussion ensued regarding program options. Councilmember C. Medina spoke in support of the addition

of a Spring Session and concurred with Chairman Lopez to take additional time for consideration. It was the consensus of the Committee to consider said item at the December Committee Meeting.

**6. Briefing and discussion on NAEYC Early Childhood Education/Learning Outcomes and initial recommendations to encourage more NAEYC accredited centers in San Antonio**

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Item will be addressed at the next meeting.

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

Presented by Gloria Hurtado, Director, Department of Human Services

Ms. Hurtado requested approval to the proposed revisions to the Head Start Policy Council Bylaws and provided an update on the Federal Review Revisit. She reported that the Head Start Policy Council convened a Subcommittee and approved revisions that better aligned the Bylaws with Head Start performance standards. With regard to the Federal Review, Ms. Hurtado stated that there were deficiencies in eight areas of non-compliance identified during the previous Federal Review. She noted that a Federal Review Team revisited the Program October 18-20, 2011 to review non-compliance areas and that the final report was pending. She added that the meetings were positive and that the Team was impressed with the systemic approach to the corrections.

Councilmember C. Medina asked of the Policy Council stakeholders. Ms. Hurtado responded that the Policy Council was comprised of current parents and a combination of community members.

Councilmember Saldaña moved to approve the proposed revisions to the Head Start Policy Council Bylaws. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Consideration of items for future meetings**

- ✦ Anti-Bullying Policy
- ✦ Pre-K 16 Brain Power Initiative
- ✦ Ambassador Program
- ✦ NAEYC Early Childhood Education/Learning Outcomes
- ✦ Education Coordinator Position

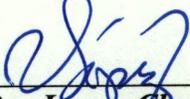
**9. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith  
Office of the City Clerk

  
Ray Lopez, Chair